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Adamishin Interviewed on Tajikistan Situation

MK1108104593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 33, 15 Aug 93 (signed to press 10 Aug 93) p 9 A

[Interview with Anatoliy Leonidovich Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, by Aleksey Pushkov in the "Politics" column under "Diplomacy" rubric: "When Trouble Came;" place and date not given]

[Text] [Pushkov] Anatoliy Leonidovich, you are the head of Russia's first "emergency" mission to Tajikistan and other Central Asian republics. Does this mean that Russian diplomacy in this region is becoming your special responsibility?

[Adamishin] Minister Andrey Kozyrev remains President Yeltsin's special envoy on Tajikistan—and this was confirmed at the Moscow meeting. As for myself, at present an interdepartmental commission is being created to monitor developments in that region. It is to be headed by a Foreign Ministry representative—more likely, a first deputy minister.

[Pushkov] What do you consider to be the main results of your latest visit to Central Asian republics?

[Adamishin] The fact that the heads of these republics accepted President Yeltsin's proposal to take part in the Moscow meeting—the first meeting, it should be noted, of Central Asian states and Russia in CIS history. Turkmenia was present as an observer and they agreed to meet in Moscow to discuss only the problem of the Tajik-Afghan border.

[Pushkov] Which strategy did Russia uphold at the Moscow meeting?

[Adamishin] We have, I would say, a two-fold position. First, it is necessary to rebuff the attempts to violate the border. This is not only the Tajik border, but also a common CIS border. Also, it is actually Russia's border. We have no other unprotected border sector up to the Arctic Ocean. Should we withdraw from there, the flood of contraband, drugs, weapons, and terrorism would be enormous. When I was there, I saw that unfortunately we are still guarding our border, not defending it. The military means that have been used against our border guards are essentially superior to those at their disposal. It is only now that the border is being strengthened on an emergency basis. At the same time, I do not think that a parity of forces has been achieved there yet.

Forceful measures, however, are not our choice. They have been forced upon us since there is no military solution to this conflict. This was also the conclusion reached by the presidents in the course of their meeting in Moscow. A political solution needs to be sought—this is the second major element of the Russian position. In other words, it is necessary above all to achieve national reconciliation and national accord in Tajikistan. Political measures also provide for talks with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, the United States, and the UN. We are at present actively engaged in what could be described as a political-diplomatic offensive in order to alleviate tensions. A fundamental solution, however, consists in the Tajiks' finding a common language among themselves.

[Pushkov] How realistic is this reconciliation?

[Adamishin] This, of course, is not a very easy task. The civil war has left very severe scars, with many atrocities and horrible things happening. But the vicious circle must be broken at some point. We are still pinning our hopes on the current government, which in fact came to power via conciliation. At the time, not only deputies of the Supreme Soviet were convened but also field commanders, all the warring sides. Therefore, at that moment at least, a national accord was in place. Russian diplomacy did not then side with any of the conflicting parties, but tried to reconcile them; and we succeeded at that stage. Therefore national reconciliation is possible and I think that there are chances that new eruptions of violence will be extinguished. As far as I know, immediately after the Moscow meeting the Tajik Government adopted a number of concrete measures to establish a political dialogue, as was arranged in Moscow.

[Pushkov] And how do you assess the offensive launched by the Tajik Government against Gorno-Badakhshan, especially given that it took place right after your mission was completed?

[Adamishin] There are some fairly contradictory versions of events here. The version by some circles in Gorno-Badakhshan is that the government troops decided to achieve reconciliation in that region by force and are therefore fighting its self-defense forces and bombarding the kishlaks [villages]. The Tajik Government, for its part, says: We are trying to break the blockade on the mountain pass, the only road leading from Dushanbe to Gorno-Badakhshan. The breakthrough was undertaken following unsuccessful attempts to come to agreement with local armed opposition groups to lift the blockade and let humanitarian convoys pass through, because if the road is closed, the population of Badakhshan would be doomed to starvation. The only other road is via Osh, Kirgizia. Such are the two conflicting versions.

Moreover, the government is saying: We are not bombing anyone, if only because we have no aviation. The opposition claims that this is Uzbek aviation. President Karimov publicly responded to that: We are not such idiots as to be caught doing such things. There is no reason not to believe the government. But this operation will become overly risky if the population of Gorno-Badakhshan is involved in it. Therefore we insistently recommended to the Tajik Government: a) stop this operation as soon as possible; b) eliminate all suspicion that civilians and members of the self-defense forces in Gorno-Badakhshan are being killed; c) confirm the agreement that the armed forces controlled by the central government will not enter its territory. A report that I have just received suggests that direct contacts are beginning between Dushanbe and Gorno-Badakhshan.

[Pushkov] Is Russia not being dragged into a war here like the one in Afghanistan? There, too, we were talking about protecting borders, supporting a ruling regime....

[Adamishin] Indeed, there is a serious danger of getting involved in a prolonged war and this must be avoided at any price. But this is where all analogies with Afghanistan end. Indeed, we had no business at hand in Afghanistan. We are still dealing with the consequences of that reckless adventure, including in the Tajik conflict: there are a number of extremist groups in Afghanistan seeking to take revenge for that war.

[Pushkov] Occasionally it is suggested that there is also a "revenge-seeking" mood in the Russian army, especially among the officers who fought in Afghanistan....

[Adamishin] I do not know. I have spoken with the military and in my opinion, the Afghan war for them will last the rest of their lives. So, in contrast to Afghanistan, in Tajikistan, as well as in all of Central Asia, we have serious long-term interests. Whomever I talk with invariably says: If Russia withdrew from here, it would be a catastrophe—and not only for the Russian, Slav population that lives in these republics, but also for very many local residents. How then is it possible to abandon these people?

Sometimes De Gaulle's example is cited: He left Algeria and nothing terrible happened. But you should not forget that he took approximately half a million people from there with him, and not only Frenchmen but also Arabs. Furthermore, he fought there for four years: The war in Algeria had gone on for four years before him and four years under him. Here we have very serious economic interests—and then, should we pull out, a dangerous destabilization would be very likely.

Another distinction from Afghanistan is that in that war, we were on different sides of the barricade from the Americans. Now the Americans want to help us resolve this conflict, just like many other countries.

[Pushkov] What are our current relations with the Afghan Government and how much does it control the situation on its side of the border?

[Adamishin] It seems to me that when it has to, it can control the situation. Of course, there are bandits or field commanders who do not believe either in God or the devil, but are fighting just for money. Some of them, when they are caught near our border posts, have pockets full of dollars. These are sheer mercenaries. Some of them even say to our border guards: Pay us more and we shall go away.

[Pushkov] Who is paying them?

[Adamishin] According to information in our possession, various private, nongovernmental organizations and extremist circles in some Muslim countries.

[Pushkov] It is often stated that Tajikistan is a touchstone for Islamic extremism to test itself, as it were.

[Adamishin] I have the impression that the opposition is using the Islamic factor to a larger extent than the Islamic factor is using the opposition. Although I admit that I could be wrong. There are some highly respected people who believe that what we are seeing is an onslaught by Islamic fundamentalists at the weakest link of the chain. Of course, with the diversity in Tajikistan, this factor is also at work, but at least at present it is not decisive.

[Pushkov] The Russian Foreign Ministry has been often criticized for lacking a strategy in the Central Asian region. From this point of view, would it be correct to say that it was a blessing in disguise that Russia must now pay close attention to Central Asia?

[Adamishin] I would not say that we have no policy with respect to Central Asia. We more or less know what needs to be done. Difficulties start in the implementation of this policy when disagreements begin among various departments and when we are confronted with shortages of resources and manpower.... The Moscow meeting has shown that for Russia, this is an area of vital interests and that the interests of the people living there may not coincide in all aspects; but on key aspects, they do coincide. From this point of view, the meeting has gone beyond the purely Tajik issue, and this is very good. Therefore I agree with the formula: There would be no good fortune if misfortune had not helped. True, there is another Russia proverb: A peasant needs thunder to cross himself and wonder.

Rejects Afghan War Comparison

PM1208100793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 7

[Interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin by ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev specially for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA; place and date not given: "Anatoliy Adamishin: 'May Those Who Decided To Send Troops to Afghanistan Turn in Their Graves'"]

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin has toured the capitals of the Central Asian states. He did this as the Russian Federation president's special representative and discussed the problem of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Almaty, Bishkek, and Ashgabat. And in general, Anatoliy Adamishin has been studying the questions of settling the Tajik crisis since October last year.

[Timofeyev] Anatoliy Leonidovich, at last Saturday's Moscow meeting of leaders of the Central Asian states and Russia on the Tajikistan problem important documents were adopted. But will the declarations remain no more than declarations?

[Adamishin] I think that it may be said without stretching a point that a high degree of proximity of positions was displayed in three directions. Above all the heads of state who gathered in Moscow confirmed that they view the Tajik-Afghan border as a common border of the CIS and will defend it together. Were we to leave this border on the Pyandzh or in the Pamir, that would mean that the little stream which is now flowing could turn not merely into a flood of contraband, which is not the most terrible thing, but into a flood of narcotics. That, incidentally, is one of the main routes along which narcotics penetrate not only our country but also Europe and the United States. Many events taking place in this region can be explained by the narcotics business. Contraband, narcotics, extremists' influence, destabilization. It would be a good thing for us to realize clearly that the Tajik-Afghan border is a frontier which really exists for us. There is nothing beyond it. Russia has a legal border with Kazakhstan. It is not equipped and it is 7,000 km long.

I do not mention the fact that the people living on both sides of the border do not want it to exist. And in general that in the CIS transparent borders are a blessing, not something harmful, if we do indeed want to integrate our states in those fields where it is advantageous.

[Timofeyev] Anatoliy Leonidovich, have you had contacts with the Tajik opposition?

[Adamishin] That is primarily a matter for the Tajik Government. We can help it, but it is not for us to talk with the opposition. Although it must be admitted that there are people on both sides who are not interested in such dialogue. I think that they will nonetheless be able to set up a conversation. I am sure that the Central Asian states support contacts with the Afghans and Iranians and thus have ways of reaching the opposition. In Ashgabat, for instance, there is no desire to send troops for joint defense, but there is an unalloyed desire to take part in a political settlement. The Turkmens have good contacts with the Iranians and the Afghans. They have been able to keep their border peaceful.

So far we are at the start of complex, protracted work, but I form the impression that this task can be resolved.

[Timofeyev] How do you explain the reasons for the aggravation of the situation in Gorno-Badakhshan?

[Adamishin] It is a problem with many levels. It includes questions of the narcotics business, for which Gorno-Badakhshan serves as a kind of "gate," questions of relations with the central government, and questions of the historic ties between Gorno-Badakhshan and Russia. After all the Pamir became part of Russia before many other Central Asian regions and views Russia as its protector. It also includes relations with the mojahedin who stand along the border. Questions of humanitarian aid influence the situation. If the passes are closed now people will be doomed to extinction. That is how the government explains the fighting at the pass across which it is essential to bring humanitarian convoys.

[Timofeyev] After your visit to Tajikistan and after the Moscow meeting, what certainty do you have that we will not be drawn into wide-scale hostilities like the Afghan war?

[Adamishin] The danger of being drawn into a protracted war does indeed exist. And it is a danger which we must do everything to avoid. The Afghan syndrome is still very powerful for us and that is why we fear such things very much, and rightly so.

In Afghanistan we did indeed have nothing to do. I should like those who made the decision to turn in their graves. In Tajikistan we have serious problems as we do throughout Central Asia as a whole. Even if you now compare the living standard in Tajikistan and Afghanistan it is an abyss. One reason for the crisis is that those on the other side who have lost everything want to get to the "sources of a better life." How can we hand over people with whom historically we have much in common into the hands of extremism, into the hands of the Middle Ages. The commonality of our peoples and their interest in each other are one of the main reasons for our strategic interests in the region.

In addition we cannot abandon the hundreds of thousands of members of the Russian-speaking population. We know that they have already been declared hostages during the rule of the previous government.

In Tajikistan again we have very serious economic interests. We have invested funds in these areas. There are rare-earth metals, uranium, cotton, and a considerable economic potential there in which we are interested. Why jettison them? I do not even mention the fact that our retreat from there would mean very serious destabilization, first in Tajikistan, then in Uzbekistan, and then in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. That wave would sweep to our borders. I do not say that we have a 100 percent chance of success, but there is nonetheless more of a chance. And mainly because people do not want us to retreat, not just the government.

Russia 'Would Be Crushed' in Full-Scale War

MK1308083093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No.42, 13 Aug 93 (signed to press 12 Aug 93) p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Tajikistan" rubric: "A Border Too Far Away—First Russian POW's of the New War"]

[Excerpts] Boris Yeltsin clearly achieved a diplomatic success at the Moscow conference on 7 August: in the face of a common "Islamic-democratic" enemy, the Central Asian presidents rallied around Russia and agreed to jointly defend the border along the Pyandzh. Kazakhstan has also promised not to follow Ukraine's bad example and to "straighten out" the status of former Soviet nuclear arms on Kazakhstani territory within a short time.

On 11 August, however, the price that the "big brother" will have to pay for this also became evident: A car with Russian and Kazakhstani border guards was ambushed. Several people were wounded, and four Russian soldiers and a Kazakhstani major were taken prisoner on Afghan territory, where hundreds of POW's from the previous war of 1979-1989 are still "missing in action."

Russia has undertaken to defend Tajikistan's border as if it were its own, but presently all Russian borders are insecure, and the faraway border along the Pyandzh is no better than others. [passage omitted]

Russia will be unable to muster more than 15-20,000 people without having to mobilize reservists or to draft students. Meanwhile, if the bulk of the mojahedin forces as well as the regular Afghan Army join forces for a new "jihad," they will be able to amass on the former USSR's border up to 100,000 professional fighters, most of whom are presently "jobless" following the victory in the Afghan war; moreover, regular units of the Afghan Army are equipped with warplanes, tanks, ballistic missiles, and other heavy weaponry. Russia simply would be crushed in a conflict like this—it is now much weaker than the Soviet Union was in the midst of the Afghan war.

Ukraine's Kuchma Talks With Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin

Yeltsin Offers Compensation for Warheads

LD1208194693 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1917 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—During the meeting between Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on 11 August, Boris Yeltsin firmly promised to pay compensation to Ukraine for nuclear warheads utilized by Russia. "This issue has not been resolved for some time now, and has already managed to develop into an economic-political issue," Yeltsin stressed. Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed the cabinet of ministers headed by him to prepare an appropriate decision.

Accord on Oil Deliveries Reached

MK1208114093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Marat Salimov report in "Russia and Ukraine Agree on Oil Deliveries; Economic Interests Prevail Over Political Differences"]

[Text] As of now, Russia guarantees to Ukraine uninterrupted oil and oil product deliveries through the end of 1993, as well as provision of favorable conditions for investments in the West Siberian oil and gas complex. Agreement on this was reached yesterday in Moscow between the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine. Also present at the meeting was Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Implementation of the agreements reached involves gradual corporatization on a reciprocal basis [perekrestnoye aktsionirovaniye] of enterprises not only in the oil and gas complex but also in the machine-building and metallurgical sectors. This form of economic collaboration can contribute to the restoration of cooperative links among the enterprises of the two countries and also invigorate integration processes on an interstate level.

In Russian-Ukrainian relations, the problems of oil and natural gas deliveries from Russia and mutual financial settlements for these deliveries are a top priority; and the latest working visit by the Ukrainian premier was devoted precisely to discussion of these problems. The results of the meeting suggest that the heads of government of the two states have recognized the need for invigorating the integration processes based on mutual cooperation, without which stability in the economic development of Russia or Ukraine cannot be achieved.

Basically, Leonid Kuchma's emergency arrival was caused by a five-day suspension of Russian fuel and energy deliveries to Ukraine, and the main aim of his visit was to resolve the question of their resumption. The reason for the suspension of deliveries from Russia was Ukraine's failure to pay for them, with its debt running at 750 million rubles. In the end, a protocol of the working meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, and Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma was signed: the Russian side assumed obligations to ensure steady fuel and energy deliveries and the Ukrainian side undertook to make payments for these deliveries within the established time limits. The signing of the protocol shows that mutual economic interests have prevailed over political disagreements. It is quite possible that the outcome of the Russian-Ukrainian disagreements was influenced by President Yeltsin's presence at the meeting of the two prime ministers.

An important result of the talks between the heads of government of the two states has been an agreement on comprehensive assistance in protecting the investments of enterprises regardless of their ownership status and on mutual corporatization of enterprises not only in the fuel and energy complex, but also in the machine-building and metallurgical sector. Under the Moscow protocol, Ukraine will corporatize the Lisichansk oil refinery, with 45 percent of its stock to be placed among Russian oil and gas associations and shareholding companies.

Moreover, the protocol provides for expanded mutual cooperation in oil processing and energy marketing. This will primarily mean an attempt to raise the load levels of oil-processing facilities in Ukraine. The sides managed to agree on coordinating in the near term the delivery volumes of Russian oil to be processed at Ukrainian oil refineries, with subsequent marketing of oil products in Russia, Ukraine, and also in third countries.

Assessing the results of the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian premiers, experts point out that there has been obvious progress in economic relations between the two states. This is demonstrated by their understanding that it is impossible to separately resolve the problems of the fuel and energy sector; without successful operation in this sector, it would be impossible to overcome the crisis.

Problems of Black Sea Fleet Division Detailed

PM1208101993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Boris Sverdlov report under "Our New Neighbors" rubric: "Stormy Times at the 'Swallows' Nest'"]

[Text] Sevastopol—Following the Moscow meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, where the fate of the Black Sea Fleet was settled yet again, the already heated atmosphere in Sevastopol reached boiling point. The hopes of the Russian servicemen burst like soap bubbles. Because hanging over their fleet was an ax which was ready to hack its most complex mechanism to pieces....

I recall that the next day, Sevastopol's central square exploded into a mighty rally. This time the personnel were supported by the city administration and its deputies. The speakers dubbed the Moscow agreement a "conspiracy resembling the Belovezhskiy treaty like two peas in a pod."

"Why do you say that?" I asked officers who were itching to get to the microphone.

"Is it not clear? They have sliced the country up without asking its peoples. Now Moscow has decided to do away with the fleet, although it knew perfectly well that its command, officers, and social organizations were insistently demanding that it be left undivided...."

Today the officers are far from happy. They can imagine perfectly well what may happen if Sevastopol gives shelter to two fleets. One of them, the Russian fleet, according to an absolute majority, will be considered foreign, or more precisely, an occupation fleet, and the Ukrainian authorities will demand its removal from the Crimean coast. There are plenty of grounds for such opinions. Despite the Dagomys and Yalta agreements, the republic Ministry of Defense has repeatedly instructed officers and warrant officers who have refused to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine to "make themselves scarce" and go home.

"But what would you tell me to do?" Captain Second Rank V. Nechayev reasons. "I was born in Sevastopol in 1953. According to my passport, I am a citizen of the RSFSR. So going home means staying here. This is a such a calamity.... I personally, and indeed all the Russian officers, consider our motherland to be the one we are defending. In any case, we stand up staunchly for Ukraine and Russia...."

Events following the disintegration of the Union have shown convincingly that no dividing up brings good results. Take for example the Ossetian-Ingush, Armenian-Azerbaijani, and Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts, which arose out of claims to territory and power. They have all ended in bloodshed. The division of the fleet with its most complex infrastructures is a dangerous deed, so to speak. And a difficult one to resolve.

It would seem that there is nothing to add to the published agreement. Everything has been set out properly and clearly. In practice, however, the division mechanism can scarcely satisfy both sides. Even today many people are racking their brains over the number of military ships involved in the count. In spite of existing agreements, Ukraine has unilaterally put some of the ships under its yellow-and-blue flags. Or take the only hospital ship in the whole fleet. How can it be divided up? But it is far more difficult to sort out communications, the air force units, and the ship repair plants which cannot exist without each other.

The division of the fleet has not yet begun, but Rear Admiral N. Kostrov, deputy commander of the Ukrainian Navy, is announcing to all and sundry that the buildings and installations of the Balaklava division and the Kerch training ground should immediately be handed over to the Ukrainian Navy, and the Sevastopol training detachments transferred to its authority.

Clearly, it is not hard to imagine the heated arguments that will arise during the implementation of the Moscow agreement. Only one thing is clear: that the division will not make the fleet more powerful. Even today, submarines "from over there" are getting inexcusably close to Crimea.

But if, despite all the difficulties, the agreement is carried out, then even then, according to political scientists, the tension in mutual relations between the two Slavic states will not decrease. Ukraine will not want a foreign fleet on its territory. But the restationing of the Russian fleet to the Russian coast will not suit the servicemen. What can they expect there?

...Of course, not all officers are in a gloomy frame of mind today. The mood is slightly better in the ranks of the Ukrainian Navy. The agreement signed by the two presidents suits them entirely. They saw the Moscow meeting as a victory for L. Kravchuk, who was able to defend his interests with the subtlety of a refined politician. The Russian officers and warrant officers are now impatiently awaiting a meeting of the presidents. And not just anywhere, but in Sevastopol. Maybe this time it will have a more encouraging outcome?

Kokoshin, Koleshnikov Meet With Kyrgyz Defense Official

PM1208122993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service report under the "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Prospects of Military Cooperation Between Russia and Kyrgyzstan Discussed"]

[Text] On 9 August Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, received Major General Myrzakan Subanov, chairman of the Kyrgyzstan State Committee for Defense Affairs, at his request.

A number of specific questions concerning the long-term prospects for military cooperation between Russia and Kyrgyzstan were discussed during the talks in the light of the decisions adopted at the recent Moscow meeting of the leaders of the Russian Federation and of Central Asian states on a settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan.

Kozyrev Responds to Critcism on India Policy

LD1208214393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov yesterday accused Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev of wanting to bring our country into dispute with India.

Here is Andrey Kozyrev's reply:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] The only price that we cannot pay for any relations with anyone is the proliferation of rocket technology and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. [end recording]

In the view of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the sale of such technology, especially in a conflict zone, is fraught with far-reaching negative consequences. Rockets are already at the present time being used on the Afghan-Tajik border, but as yet they are not flying as far as Moscow. Incidentally, if we supply rockets to India, what will prevent the Americans from supplying them, for instance, to Pakistan? Russia is interested in maintaining the status quo in this region and will insist that the United States also very strictly complies with the regime of nonproliferation of rocket technology.

As for India, Kozyrev stresses that Russia intends to develop links with that country, including cooperation on peaceful space programs.

Details of Consul's Hostage Ordeal in Iran Provided

PM1308101193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Our Consul in Iran Was Not Frightened of Terrorist"]

[Text] "I managed to establish a psychological rapport with the terrorist"—this was how Andrey Nikolayevich Kiselev, Russian consul in Tehran, briefly described his experiences in a telephone interview with IZVESTIYA. He had spent 13.5 hours under threat of death in his office.

According to Kiselev, the visitor who called on him at midday on Tuesday and who spoke Russian quite well did not arouse suspicion during the first moments. But when he slammed the door and took a bomb (it subsequently proved to be real) out of a case, the situation changed drastically. Squeezing an electric detonator in his fist, the visitor demanded that he be granted political asylum in the United States, France, or Switzerland. He allowed the Russian diplomat to contact the embassy by telephone.

Meanwhile, Kiselev's colleagues were behind the locked door. Although the uninvited guest prohibited the consul from speaking with them, toward the end of the day the diplomats succeeded in making it known to their comrade, without arousing suspicion, that some action to free him was being prepared.

Andrey Kiselev managed to dissuade the terrorist and to ascertain that he had once belonged, to all appearances, to one of the left-wing groupings in Iran (the Iranian police maintain that it was the Tudeh Communist Party). He had twice crossed the USSR border illegally, for which the Soviet authorities sentenced him to four years' jail, and then he was expelled to his motherland, where he was also imprisoned.

"Obviously, taking a hostage was the only possible way for him to leave Iran, since the local police never would have issued this person a passport to travel abroad," Kiselev believes. He reported that the terrorist refused point-blank an offer to fly him across Russian territory. "He had no intention of requesting asylum in our country," the consul maintains.

At 0140 hours Tuesday night, when Kiselev was standing in the corner of the room, shielded by the wall, there came a long burst of assault rifle fire from the window. The diplomat fell to the floor, as is customary in such instances. When he got to his feet, it was all over: The terrorist was lying motionless. One of the bullets had hit him in the head. According to AFP's information, he is gravely injured, but in the consul's opinion the man is hardly likely to survive.

Diplomats in the Iranian capital are unanimous: Andrey Nikolayevich displayed outstanding restraint and composure.

Official Comments on Iraqi Trade Mission, UN Embargo

MK1308093593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 4

[Svetlana Sukhova report: "Russian-Iraqi Economic Links—Russia Risks Losing the Iraqi Market"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry distributed a report on the visit by a Russian government delegation to Iraq. The report focuses on setting up a treaty and legal framework in bilateral relations; on drafting an agreement on trade, economic, and scientific and technical cooperation; and also on creating an intergovernmental commission. Agreement was reached on the repayment of the Iraqi debt to Russia immediately after the embargo is lifted, on deliveries of Russian goods allowed by the United Nations' resolution to Iraq, and on completing the construction of a number of Russian projects in Iraq. Oleg Davydov, first deputy foreign economic relations minister, has commented on the results of the visit to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent.

According to Mr. Davydov, economic relations between Russia and Iraq have a history of 35 years. During that time, Russia built more than 80 projects on Iraqi territory. From August 1991, when economic sanctions were imposed on Iraq, Russia's deliveries halted to a near standstill. This, Mr. Davydov pointed out, resulted in huge losses for Moscow: first of all, the Iraqi debt, and also losses due to mothballing construction work on Iraqi territory and halting Iraqi oil and oil-product deliveries that Russia was reexporting to India and Bulgaria. Mr. Davydov emphasized that Russia should have favored lifting the UN sanctions with regard to Iraqi oil deliveries. In his view, the stance taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry on the issue is not constructive, and Russia's drift in the wake of the U.S. Iraqi policy is inflicting significant economic damage on the country. In addition, Baghdad was always one of the chief importers of Russian weapons.

The problem of Iraqi debt was also discussed during the talks. As of today, the total amount of the debt stands at $6 billion. So far, Russia has insisted on the repayment of $1.8 billion. Iraq, however, continues to link the repayment to the lifting of the UN sanctions. Russia, for its part, is ready to wait, not only because Iraq is entirely creditworthy (thanks to huge oil reserves), but also because Russia is interested in the Iraqi market. There is a real threat, however, as Mr. Davydov noted, that this market may be lost if Moscow puts its cooperation with Baghdad completely on hold.

Besides, a number of West European firms that have missions on Iraqi territory are proceeding with their trade activity. Many of them have already signed trade contracts with Iraqi partners that will go into force once the sanctions are lifted. It should also be remembered that a number of West European states, particularly Italy and Germany, unlike Russia, stopped short of supporting the UN sanctions in their entirety.

Prospects for PRC Military-Technical Ties 'Pretty Good'

PM1208201993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Sergey Sidorov report: "Visit Continues"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the same day [11 August] a meeting took place between Colonel General Zhang Wannian and Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense. In reply to a question from a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent on the future prospects for military-technical cooperation between Russia and China, A. Kokoshin characterized them as "pretty good [neplokhiy]." "...There is great interest in this cooperation on the part of the Chinese side and it is a necessity for our industry," he said.

The Chinese guest laid a wreath at the grave of the unknown soldier beside the Kremlin wall and at V.I. Lenin's mausoleum.

Fishing Ship Held in South Africa for Debts Nonpayment

PM1308101593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Our Firms Are Clarifying Relations with the Aid of South African Police"]

[Text] The South African newspapers are gloating over the details of an enormous scandal: In the port of Walvisbaai police have arrested the Russian fishing trawler Vostochnoye okno-II with 32 crew members on board.

IZVESTIYA has been told by competent sources in Moscow that the ship, which was built in Nikolayev, belongs rightfully to the Russian "Vostochnoye okno" company. Credit for building it was issued for a period of five years by the "Sovrybflot" joint stock company. Since the creditor has still not returned the parts of the loan or the interest he was supposed to, the "Sovrybflot" leaders could think of nothing better than "prevailing upon" the Republic of South Africa legal and administrative authorities to arrest the Russian ship. Which they did. Here, it emerges, the police have leveled no specific charges against the arrested men. Nor can they do so: The ship has not violated the rules for fishing for jack mackerel.

Experts at the Russian Federation Committee for Fishing have explained that the arrested trawler has a single owner—the "Vostochnoye okno" company. "Sovrybflot" is only a creditor but in no way a participant in a contract on joint activity and does not have the right to arrest the property of another owner.

In the opinion of Professor K. Gorenskiy, an independent expert in the field of the law of the sea, under Russian legislation such disputes between corporate entities should be resolved on Russian territory. Only our arbitration court can make a decision on the ship's arrest. The expert believes that the "Vostochnoye okno" company has every legal grounds for protesting the decision of the "Sovrybflot" leadership and seeking damages. And they could be considerable: One day's detention of the trawler costs its owner $5,000.

Meanwhile, waiting for our firms to clarify their relations the crew is fishing and familiarizing itself with the local sights.

Talks Held With U.S., Germany on Organized Crime

LD1208221893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug—"It is impossible to stay within the limits of state borders while combating organized crime," said Police Lieutenant General Mikhail Yegorov, first deputy minister of internal affairs of Russia and head of the chief directorate for combating organized crime, at a press conference at the Russian Federation Ministry of the Interior today. Authoritative foreign experts who took part in the press conference—Jim Moody, head of the U.S. FBI's department for organized crime, and Volker Heim [name as received], executive director of the German Criminal Police—agreed with this opinion.

Mikhail Yegorov said that "the time when we and our foreign colleagues were getting used to each other" has passed. "Our contacts make it possible to expose criminal groups with foreign connections. According to operational information, there are about 100 [illegible] groups. Some criminal cases have been instituted. [illegible] cannot fulfill these tasks without the help of our foreign colleagues."

Jim Moody, the FBI department head, said that mafia structures from Italy, Japan, China, Colombia, and other countries are operating in the United States. In his words, criminals from the former Soviet Union "are at the bottom of the scale compared with others, but they are better organized and are good at establishing relations with criminal groups abroad." According to Jim Moody, the FBI kept all mafia-type groups in control.

His German colleague, Volker Heim, also confirmed that nationals of the former USSR were coming into prominent positions in the criminal communities in Germany. The close ties they kept with their compatriots who emigrated to Germany 10 or 12 years ago help them to achieve this.

Russian, French Cosmonauts Hold Press Conference

LD1208151393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Stellar City (Moscow region) August 12 TASS—"The fact that our crew was mixed, introduced many new things in our space explorations and at the same time opened new prospects," said Gennadiy Manakov, commander of the 13th space mission aboard the Mir space station, replying to ITAR-TASS here on Thursday. Manakov, flight engineer Aleksandr Poleshchuk and French researcher Jean-Pierre Haignere who returned to the earth on July 22, were festively welcomed to Stellar City on Thursday.

Haignere who hurtled around the earth for 22 days, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that that was the fourth mission in which French cosmonauts participated. The past expedition made several dozen medical, technical and technological experiments.

According to the French cosmonaut, another joint Russian-French flight is planned for 1996.

General designer Yuriy Semenov believes that "France now is the most serious partner in space research". Specialists pointed to the total length of space walks among successes of the past mission—9 hours 58 minutes.

'Protectionist' EEC Ban on Aluminum Imports Deplored

PM1208201593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Sergey Yakovlev report: "'Aluminum' Barrier for Russia"]

[Text] Sergey Glazyev, Russian Federation minister of foreign economic relations, has lodged a protest with the EC Commission's mission in Moscow in connection with the unilateral decision adopted by the EC countries to introduce protectionist measures against imports of aluminum from Russia. As is well known, a quota of 60,000 tonnes in the period from 7 August through the end of November of this year has been fixed on the import of this metal from our country, and also other countries of the former Union.

This decision by the EC is simply astonishing: After all, no later than the end of the July Russia the EC had almost reached an agreement on how to solve "the aluminum problem," and agreed to meet in September to make a final decision on this question. The unexpected restriction on imports from Russia also contradicts the agreement on trade and commercial and economic cooperation existing between our country and the EC.

This decision also provokes other reflections. The statement of support for the reforms in Russia and the liberalization of trade exchanges with us by EC representatives have proved to be simply a declaration which commits them to nothing. In adopting protectionist measures against Russian aluminum, the EC cannot fail to understand that losses from this action will "cancel out" all financial resources allocated for technical assistance to Russia. In addition, it should not be forgotten that it is not only Russian producers and foreign consumers of our metal who will suffer losses. It cannot be ruled out that, as a result of the EC's adoption of protectionist measures, the world aluminum market will be destabilized as a whole.

The Russian side proposes not to rush into establishing restrictive quotas and to continue consultations with the EC forthwith.

Problems Over Nonferrous Metal Exports Aired

PM1208161193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[By A. Musikyan from Norilsk "Nikel" combine; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Musikyan] It is no secret that the liberalization of foreign economic activities has provided ample grounds for the current view that Russia is being sold down the river by newfound businessmen. The mass reexport from former union republics of nonferrous metals produced in our country is a well known example. This leads to the destruction of the existing market and a slump in prices. Could this be caused by the drive for independence by individual regions and individual enterprises which do not have sufficient experience of trading in the external market?

At a meeting with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, the managers of the Norilsk Mining and Enrichment Combine, which is one of the biggest in the country, responded with a counter-question. Why are all sorts of people selling metal produced in Norilsk in the foreign market, while the enterprise itself is unable to obtain a commensurate revenue from foreign trade because of excessive taxation and disproportionate customs duties? Furthermore, the import of badly needed equipment is so heavily taxed as to make such imports and production development totally disadvantageous.

[B. Kazakov of "Norilskiy Nikel" concern] Producers must have the right to sell their output. They must be able to decide what happens to their output.

[Musikyan] Meanwhile the situation on the nonferrous metal market is becoming more and more complex. The ministry is expecting the European Community to examine the question of introducing quantitative restrictions on the import of our aluminum in the near future. It cannot be ruled out that other markets will follow suit. Therefore ministry representatives believe that it is extremely important to know how to control the export of sensitive goods to the world market.

[S. Glazyev, minister of foreign economic relations] We have no intention of seeking a return to a state monopoly. What we want to do is to tighten the observance of legislation governing foreign economic activities and of the rules of fair competition.

[Musikyan] As for the tax on imported equipment, it appears that it will be lowered in September for equipment not produced in our country.

Deputy Security Minister Views Foreign Military Cooperation

PM1208155493 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Article by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, new Russian deputy security minister: "Developing International Military Cooperation. The Contemporary Situation, Contemporary Problems, and Prospects"]

[Text] We publish an article by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev which he wrote when first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff. The editorial office received it the day before his appointment to his new post.

Military cooperation with foreign countries is an integral part of the Russian state's foreign policy activity. It comprises a range of measures in the military, military-technical, military-economic, military-scientific, and other spheres which are implemented in the interests of strengthening the defense capability and national security of countries participating in such cooperation, bearing in mind their inalienable right to individual and collective self-defense proclaimed by the UN Charter (Article 51).

Military cooperation between Russia and friendly countries is a weighty factor in the strengthening of international trust and peace. It facilitates not only the solving of military-political tasks and the enhancement of Russia's prestige and standing, but also the securing of its economic interests, creates favorable conditions for the development of trade and economic relations with foreign countries, and remains a real source of foreign currency and commodity earnings for the country. It should be stressed here that some of the resources received are spent on conversion of the military-industrial complex and the implementation of social programs to solve acute Army problems, primarily on constructing housing for servicemen and providing amenities for the troops being withdrawn from abroad.

At present military cooperation is being carried out in various areas between the Russian Federation and over 50 foreign countries, including CIS and former Warsaw Pact member states, nearby foreign countries, and developing and other countries. It is based on the provisions of friendship and cooperation treaties and intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements and contracts.

The establishment of military cooperation is not the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's prerogative. It falls within the jurisdiction of the supreme state organs and is organized on the basis of a number of fundamental principles.

Above all, cooperation is carried out in strict accordance with international norms and accords approved by Russia; in line with its foreign policy course, aimed at limiting and reducing arms, preventing the occurrence of wars, and settling regional conflicts by peaceful means; and bearing in mind the ever increasing importance of global problems common to all mankind.

It is important to note that cooperation presupposes that the sides' mutual interests and real potential are fully taken into account and that its economic effectiveness is guaranteed. But the militarization of the politics and economies of countries receiving our weapons must not be allowed during the implementation of military cooperation plans. These must assist countries which are partners in cooperation to maintain their national armed forces at a reasonable level which is sufficient for defense but which precludes their creating the military potential for aggressive offensive actions.

One of the principles of military cooperation between Russia and other countries is control over deliveries of our weapons abroad. These must not contradict the principles of restraint and the approaches elaborated in this sphere by the international community or groups of interested countries with Russia's participation.

When carrying out military cooperation, we proceed from the premise that the limitation or complete termination of weapons deliveries to countries located in zones of international tension is envisaged on a mutual basis with other suppliers. The implementation of international accords applying to all main weapons suppliers and aimed at strengthening openness- and confidence-building measures in the sphere of weapons deliveries and limiting their export, up to and including the complete termination of deliveries of certain types of them, is ensured here.

The priority of our country's security interests and of the preservation of peace over economic advantage, the ban on the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, and an especially careful approach regarding deliveries of "dual-purpose" items and technologies to any state in light of international standards are also among the most important principles on which military cooperation between Russian and other states is based.

Finally, mention must be made of Russia's active participation in international activity on questions regarding the control and limitation of the conventional weapons trade, the nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other types of mass destruction weapons and rocket technologies, the creation of a mechanism of effective international people's control in this sphere, and activity to extend openness and glasnost (transparency) in the sphere of international transfers of weapons and services with a military purpose in a volume that does not harm the interests of Russia and its partners in cooperation.

What is the state of military cooperation between Russia and foreign states in the present phase and what kind of problems are occurring during its implementation?

The processes associated with the reorganization of the state system of administering Russia and the transition to a market economy have had a very substantial effect on the sphere of our cooperation with foreign countries. The changes in the world have also made their mark on it. These include the abandonment of the confrontation of forces between East and West, the disarmament process which is gathering momentum, cooperation in the cause of strengthening security, the localization of regional centers of armed conflicts, and many others.

These factors brought about a review of our mutual relations with foreign partners in cooperation as regards refusing to build relations with them on an ideologized basis and ending free military aid and the granting of preferential credits.

The switching of cooperation to commercial conditions and objective considerations of a foreign policy nature, as well as certain shortcomings and low efficiency in the work of state structures operating in accordance with Russian legislation on the world weapons market, has adversely affected the nature and extent of military cooperation between Russia and foreign countries.

In 1992 the number of foreign countries with which cooperation was carried out decreased, and the volume of export deliveries of Russian arms and the rendering of military services decreased substantially. This, in turn, led to an almost fourfold decrease in foreign currency earnings for the country's budget compared with the yearly average in 1986-1990. It should be noted that Russia's joining the UN sanctions against a number of countries, which included a considerable number of traditional, solvent importers of our weapons, jeopardized these countries' payments totaling several billion U.S. dollars for previously delivered special equipment and the rendering of military services.

The weakening of military cooperation between Russia and foreign countries is being actively exploited by other weapons exporters. The coordinated efforts of the United States, France, Britain, and other countries, aimed at preventing Russian weapons from entering new markets for selling weapons which are not traditional for us, are plainly visible. In the last two years the United States has shown particular activeness in the world weapons market, although Washington does not stint on calls for restraint on this delicate question. As a result of this policy the U.S. individual share of exports in the world sale of weapons increased from 32 percent in 1989 to 45 percent at present.

What is the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's position in the current situation?

It is necessary to stress again that the Defense Ministry does not trade in weapons and does not aspire to this kind of activity. But military cooperation presupposes the offering of a considerable amount of military services, which directly affect the military department's structure. These include sending Russian military specialists on assignments, training foreign servicemen at Russian Federation Defense Ministry military educational establishments, repairing foreign countries' arms and military equipment at Russian Defense Ministry enterprises, leasing military equipment, and other services. In return for this work foreign currency funds from foreign clients go into Defense Ministry accounts, most of which are transferred to the country's budget, while monetary sums earmarked directly for the Defense Ministry are channeled into tackling the Army's acute social problems, primarily into the construction of housing for servicemen. In this context an important area of our work is to enshrine in normative acts and to put into practice the Defense Ministry's right to autonomous activity in the sphere of offering military services. This activity provides an opportunity to find additional nonbudgetary funds to tackle Russian Armed Forces social programs and on the whole helps to increase the effectiveness of military cooperation.

This kind of Defense Ministry activity requires a certain restructuring of the work of the administration organs and the prompt solution of problems that occur. Specifically, this applies to problems of training foreign servicemen at Russian military educational establishments. These arise from the fact that up to 30 percent of military educational establishments which were previously engaged in training foreign specialists are located outside Russia, including a number of specialized establishments where foreigners used to be trained in specialties that were in very short supply.

With the aim of reducing the negative consequences of the current situation, the Russian Defense Ministry, in conjunction with other interested ministries and organizations, is taking the necessary measures to maintain and strengthen our positions in countries with which cooperation is currently carried out and to establish military cooperation with new states, primarily CIS countries and other former USSR republics, on equal and mutually advantageous partnership terms.

It is evident from the foregoing that the range of questions being tackled by the Russian Defense Ministry associated with the implementation of military cooperation has become considerably wider, and obviously the prospect is that it will continue to become wider.

In recent years a number of fundamentally new tasks to be tackled by the Defense Ministry have appeared: participating in the international activity of the United Nations and CSCE, activity associated with questions of regulating and controlling the transfer of weapons, their nonproliferation, and extending glasnost and openness in the military sphere (transparency); ensuring the participation of Russian military contingents and military observers in UN operations to maintain peace; organizing weapons shows and exhibitions; and participating in joint Russian Armed Forces-NATO exercises, international conferences, meetings, and symposia.

At the same time a considerable amount of work is being done at the Defense Ministry to organize export control over deliveries of arms and military equipment and over the transfer of military technologies, to plan and organize measures to develop ties with foreign countries' armies, and to provide financial and foreign exchange and material and technical support for military cooperation measures.

Thus, it can be noted that the Russian Defense Ministry is currently devoting quite a large amount of attention to measures to step up activity in the sphere of military cooperation in all areas. To this end the search is on for new approaches toward carrying it out, based on the realities of the contemporary international situation, the demands of sensible defense sufficiency, and economic expediency.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Relative Says President's Health 'Normal'

PM1308093593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with President Yeltsin's son-in-law, Valeriy Okulov, by Ravil Zaripov; place and date not given: "Health Normal, But Nothing's Biting. Someone Close to Yeltsin—Son-in-Law Valeriy Okulov—Answers KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's Questions About President's State of Health"]

[Text] The conversation occurred "on the hoof," as it were. Three days ago the Okulovs returned from a two-week tourist trip (water sports are a passion for the large Yeltsin family, including the president himself). On their return to Moscow they all went to the dacha, where they met Boris Yeltsin.

[Okulov] Boris Nikolayevich arrived around nine o'clock in the evening. The girls were delighted (Yeltsin's granddaughters Masha and Katya—R.Z.)—they ran up to their grandfather and, before he could get out of the car, began vying with one another to tell him about our trip. The talk revolved around this the whole evening. Boris Nikolayevich was openly envious of us because he is generally unable to have a normal vacation due to the unstable, unsteady situation in the country. Later he went for a walk with the girls in the grounds of the dacha and went fishing, but was unsuccessful. There was nothing biting.

[Zaripov] How does your father-in-law feel?

[Okulov] I learned of the president's shaky state of health from the newspapers. In my view, this is either a thoughtless or, on the other hand, a well-conceived campaign. I have not noticed any change in his general state of health since we last met. Boris Nikolayevich looked normal, I would even say he looked well. There were no signs of sluggishness or weakness [vyalost i rasslablennost], the only thing you sensed was tiredness. And that is natural because the president works a seven-day week.

[Zaripov] Could you asesss the effect that such a constant work load has on Boris Yeltsin's health?

[Okulov] There is no doubt it is not a positive one. The point is that, unfortunately, he cannot "switch off" from what is going on, from the problems he has to resolve. I have frequently noted that, while at home speaking to us, he listens "with half an ear," as it were, and his thoughts are far away—evidently at work. It looks as though the stress is building up.

The only place where Boris Nikolayevich can switch off from everyday affairs is on the tennis court. Particularly when he loses a set and has to immediately set the situation right. Then, in my opinion, he forgets everything and a player's pride takes over.

[Zaripov] Valeriy, you have known Yeltsin for a fairly long time—since the Sverdlovsk days. Are the years taking their toll?

[Okulov] I realize that my opinion is a fairly subjective one, but his capacity for work has not declined. If a technical term like "productivity" is appropriate, then Boris Nikolayevich's productivity is still what it was. At critical moments he is able to fully mobilize himself.

[Zaripov] You don't have the feeling that Boris Nikolayevich is skillfully hiding his state of health, so as not to worry his relatives, for instance?

[Okulov] It is impossible to hide that from us, never mind Naina Iosifovna [Yeltsin's wife]. His health is the concern of the whole family, and we keep a very careful eye on his state of health.

Shumeyko Hopes Society To Back New Parliamentary Elections

LD1208143693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian first deputy prime minister, hopes society will respond to the idea of holding new parliamentary elections in the fall. Commenting to ITAR-TASS on today's speech by [Russian President] Boris Yeltsin at the conference of television and press leaders, he added that he does not exclude the possibility of a decision on elections by the Congress of People's Deputies. He believes they should be held on the basis of the electoral law passed by presidential decree. This lays down the machinery, instruments, and timing of the elections.

'Purge Pending' in Security Ministry

MK1208122293 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Security Ministry Purge Pending"]

[Text] Apparently the days are numbered of some of former Minister Viktor Barannikov's closest associates in the Russian Federation Security Ministry.

Early this week, the country's top leadership received a new telephone directory for the Security Ministry's central apparatus. Not only was the name of V. Barannikov, who has just been removed, missing, but also the names of officials who have not yet been dismissed. For instance, there is a blank space for the service phone numbers of Generals Bondarenko (Security Ministry administration chief), Chernenko (assistant minister, formerly head of the ministry's public relations center), and others. Both generals were transferred to the Security Ministry together with Viktor Barannikov from the Internal Affairs Ministry, where they held analogous positions.

Central, Local Government Activities Reported

PM1208204793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Sessions, Trips**

The head of the Russian Governmnent, Viktor Chernomyrdin, held a meeting with the participation of his deputies. This is a weekly working meeting, at which current questions of the country's economic situation are discussed and stabilizing measures elaborated.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko held a meeting at which questions of the activity of state television and radio broadcasting companies were examined. The theme was, in particular, ways of overcoming the financial crisis facing television and radio broadcasting companies, stabilizing the work of radio enterprises, and ensuring the distribution of television and radio programs.

First Vice Premiers Oleg Lobov and Oleg Soskovets devoted this day to resolving current questions.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is continuing his visit to Tver Oblast; it is devoted mainly to in-depth study of the development of flax growing in the oblast, processing problems, and resolving other issues of the agro-industrial complex.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov met with Valeriy Arbuzov, head of Kostroma Oblast Administration. A wide range of questions concerning the oblast's economic development was discussed.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray took part in a Security Council session held in the Kremlin. One of the key issues at the session was the battle against crime and corruption. The vice premier spent the rest of the day preparing for the conference of heads of republics in Petrozavodsk.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays held a meeting on question relating to the Russian State Committee for Coal Extraction [Rosugol].

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov had a packed timetable. In the morning the vice premier met with A. Bedritskiy, chairman of the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring; then he chaired a session of the Russian State Maritime Historical and Cultural Center Collegium. In the afternoon the vice premier took part in discussion of the draft Law "On the Regulation of Wages in the Russian Federation." [passage omitted]

Conferences

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko yesterday held a conference with leaders of civil aviation and the air traffic controllers' trade union. Questions of financial support for air transport enterprises and other problems of the sector were discussed. The civil aviation representatives, the first vice premier's press service said, put forward a proposal for the immediate conclusion of agreements with governments of the CIS countries on the joint use of the former USSR's airspace. [passage omitted]

Moscow

A session of the Moscow government noted that in recent years the range of bread and flour products has fallen from 70 to 30 items. Bakeries require technical overhaul. The work of small bakeries, which are increasing not only the range of these items, but are proposing to use old, undeservedly forgotten recipes for baking Russian rolls and black bread, was recognized as positive. [passage omitted]

Irkutsk

"The most important condition for the stabilization of the Russian economy is to change the government currently working in it," Yuriy Nozhikov, head of Irkutsk Oblast Administration believes. "The interests of the regions can and should be defended, but without a strong central executive power in the country the economy cannot get back on its feet."

Constitutional Assembly Meeting Opens in Moscow

LD1208185093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Participants in the Constitutional Assembly who gathered in Moscow today, intend to exchange views on the course of the Assembly in the work of which "a dangerous pause" has taken place.

The participants in the Constitutional Assembly represent three sections of the Assembly: the section of local self-government, the section of parties and social movements and the section of entrepreneurs.

The organizational and initial group has offered three questions for discussion: on speeding up the recovery from the political crisis, on a draft of regulations for the elections of the supreme body of legislative power in the country, and on the Russian president's public chamber which, according to the initiators of this idea, should become a consultative body for the interaction between the president and public organizations reflecting the interests of different sections of society.

Further Reportage on Moscow Media Conference

Media Council Chief Addresses Conference

LD1308024393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1814 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Speech by V. Tolskiy, chairman of the Council of Heads of State Television and Radio Companies, at the meeting of media representatives held in Moscow on 12 August; from the "TV Today and Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] A conference was held in Moscow today for heads of the Russian mass media. Taking part in the conference was Russian President Boris Yeltsin. At the focus of attention were problems of TV and radio broadcasting in Russia. Perhaps for the first time, leaders from regional TV and radio companies gathered together in order to determine ways to get out of the serious crisis in which the electronic mass media find themselves.

[Tolskiy] There are a number of powerful external factors which are having an extremely negative influence on regional TV and radio broadcasting, and which are aimed in essence at destroying the single information space in Russia. In the first place, these are the attempts by the Supreme Soviet of Russia to establish political censorship, thereby monopolizing the power of the soviets over the electronic press. We are referring to the amendments to the law on the mass media, the discriminatory draft law on TV and radio broadcasting, and the setting up of supervision councils. Happily, this tendency is not being reflected in the regions, where we are not experiencing such pressure today.

Attempts are being made to work into the agenda the question of transferring state TV and radio broadcasting to the local budget. Such a decision would reinforce separatist and nationalist tendencies in the regions and strengthen the opposition in a most serious manner. In addition, it must be said frankly that this is just a clever trick, since the relevant sums will simply not be transferred into the federal budget.

Recently, state TV and radio companies have not been receiving stable financing, even in minimum quantities. The Supreme Soviet has granted the communications ministry the right to confiscate funds freely from the accounts of TV and radio companies, thereby placing under real threat the very existence of state TV and radio broadcasting in republics, krays, and oblasts. A regrouping of forces is taking place, and we can see this happening in the provinces. Well-known structures are receiving generous payments from the center, while state radio and TV broadcasting are scarcely making ends meet.

Our appeal to the president and the government of Russia, and the draft documents which we are preparing, are mysteriously disappearing in the corridors of power. Essentially, the critical question now on the agenda is this: Will there or will there not be state TV and radio in Russia? For the sake of saving the industry, we are compelled to take an extreme step: to ask the president to replace the present leadership of the Ministry of Information and the Press, which has failed to ensure the management and development of the industry, and has still failed to decide whose side it is on. At the same time we ask you, esteemed president, to consider a candidate for the post of minister.

For this highly responsible post we propose Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin, who was in at the birth of the Rossiya state radio and TV company. This is not a cry from the hall. This request is contained in the appeal which I have handed you, an appeal signed by the country's TV and radio chiefs. Furthermore, as far as I know, this point of view is held by the leaders of the federal state TV and radio companies.

Press Minister Defends Policies

LD1208141593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Alexandrova, Tamara Ivanova, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Russian Information and Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov told the meeting of leaders of Russia's state television and radio broadcasting companies and chief editors of national and local papers in Moscow today that his critics were wrong in blaming current difficulties on the press ministry. He said the financial crisis "did not emerge overnight" and was determined by "the budget which holds no water".

He admitted that the issue of licenses to television companies had taken too long with some of the applications having been shelved six months before he became minister. "All licenses are now ready," he said.

Fedotov also disagreed with charges that he was "indecisive in rebuffing attacks from the Supreme Soviet" (parliament), and said the amendments to the law on the press approved by the parliament had been vetoed by the president on August 6 as proposed by the ministry.

Fedotov backed Russian television and radio broadcasting company chief Oleg Poptsov's proposal concerning strikes and other protest actions to block the promulgation of the amendments.

Fedotov said he never called for cutting down the amount of broadcasting, especially where local television and radio broadcasting companies were concerned. He stressed that the only cuts which may be discussed are those in world services, for instance to Indonesia. This will save resources, he said.

Ostankino Chief Opposes Khasbulatov Reforms

LD1308024793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1818 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt of speech by Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, at the meeting of media representatives held in Moscow on 12 August; from the "TV Today and Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Virtually every speech referred with special concern to the pressure being exerted on the mass media. The participants at the conference described as the revival of censorship and infringement on freedom of speech and the rights of citizens the additions to the law on the press and the setting up of supervision councils. Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Russian Ostankino TV and radio company, noted:

[Bragin] We at Ostankino regard the situation surrounding the mass media, and surrounding television above all, as exceptionally alarming, almost dramatic. It threatens to deny the structures of executive authority and the president of any influence over the electronic mass media.

The opposition, which lost the referendum, in its view, simply because it did not control television, has learned lessons from this defeat and is acting against the liberal mass media and state television with an ever increasing absence of ceremony, as if taking no notice of the president and his decrees. Politicians who have united with the aim of seizing TV screens for their own use are increasing legislative pressure and acting against state companies with extreme toughness, and, it must be noted, highly consistently.

It is hardly necessary to list all the anti-democratic actions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and the tricks of the parliamentary speaker and all the reactionary fronts and blocs against television. The key points here are the additions to the law on the mass media and the setting up of supervision councils. These measures are effectively reviving censorship and stifling freedom of speech.

The television viewers, whom we are responsible to for providing honest and high quality broadcasting, will not be able to satisfy their needs for objective information and for a different kind of moral television production if Ruslan Khasbulatov and his parliamentary TV reformers achieve their objectives. Society, journalistic solidarity, and finally the president must place a firm barrier before the Supreme Soviet reactionaries.

Ostankino Chief on Freedom of Speech

PM1208124593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, by Valeriy Turovskiy; place and date not given: "Television Will Defend Freedom of Speech and Its Own Independence"]

[Text] [Turovskiy] Vyacheslav Ivanovich, the conference of representatives of state television and radio companies opens in Moscow 12 August. On that day the first session of the Federal Oversight Council will also be held. Is this a fortuitous coincidence?

[Bragin] I would say that it is a natural accident. The initiative to hold the conference of regional television and radio broadcasts is not "Ostankino's" but that of a number of local television companies. Obviously the localities felt more swiftly and keenly the threat of the creation of the Federal Oversight Council, which in its vertical system repeats all that was worst in the structures of the former USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting: A directive is issued from above which is compulsory for unconditional execution.

Naturally, television and radio journalists and the leaders of companies who had a taste of freedom and freedom of speech after August 1991 were seriously concerned. The cunning little point in the statute on the Federal Oversight Council whereby control over programs before they are broadcast is not allowed in practice will mean just one thing: A program which has been broadcast, if it displeases one of the "overseers," will bring down anger from on high on its makers. Leaders of companies, program makers, and journalists will be dismissed. And in some people there will be an inner censor who will unerringly and obediently say what the bosses like and what they do not like.

It is even symbolic that our conference will begin work on the day when the organ specially created to stifle freedom of speech begins its work as well. Obviously during the conference its participants will determine their attitude toward the Federal Oversight Council and draw up a program for countering its activity.

Nor is it any accident that the conference will be held right now, when the conflict between representative and executive powers has become dangerously aggravated through the fault of the parliamentary structures. And in this situation it is very important to show and prove that the democratic mass media are cohesive, united in their desire to defend freedom of speech. And the situation is indeed very serious and alarming. The Supreme Soviet's actions to make an assault on the press, radio, and television are acquiring a most reactionary, arrantly antidemocratic nature.

[Turovskiy] But that is natural. There is a normal struggle for influence over the mass media.

[Bragin] You, like many publications, even democratic ones, treat the conflict between the executive and legislative powers as a struggle to seize the mass media and establish diktat over them. On the part of the Supreme Soviet there are indeed actions for the monopoly seizure of television. From my viewpoint the other side, the president's side, is merely defending the ideas of the freedom and independence of the press.

Unfortunately in this antagonism we are not receiving the expected support and protection from the Ministry of the Press and Information. That is one more reason why our conference is being convened.

I was recently received by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. We had a constructive and businesslike talk. I believe I succeeded in conveying to the president our alarm at the onslaught of aggressive attacks on television and passing on our concern at the state of the company's material and technical base and the living standard and social conditions of our journalists, producers, cameramen, and editors.

Boris Nikolayevich stated frankly and unambiguously that he remains at the defense of democratic journalism and will continue firmly to support the freedom and independence of the mass media. I was convinced yet again that journalists can count on the Russian president's support.

While our conversation was in progress Boris Nikolayevich was already issuing precise instructions to the Ministry of Finances to give financial support to the company and to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to guard and protect it and ensure the journalists' safety. We have information that some political structures are preparing lists of inconvenient journalists. Instances are known of journalists being telephoned and threatened with reprisals.

The president stressed particularly that if there are any actions by the Federal Oversight Council aimed at interfering in the company's activity and encroaching on freedom of speech he will firmly come to the defense of state television. Boris Nikolayevich asked me to convey the following message to the "Ostankino" collective: Work calmly and confidently. The president will not allow politicians seeking to monopolize the mass media to achieve their aim.

[Turovskiy] In this situation what could the president's actions be?

[Bragin] I cannot predetermine the president's actions. Perhaps he will impose a veto on additions and changes to the law on the mass media adopted by legislators. Or issue an edict defending journalists' interests.

[Turovskiy] And a new spiral of the paper war will begin: The president will impose a veto and issue an edict and the parliamentarians will, as they traditionally do, suspend the edict's operation. Will that continue for long? And is there any way out of this stalemate?

[Bragin] Society is exhausted by this confrontation. All Russians are asking the question: How long? And ways of resolving this deadlock situation are already ripening in society and being crystallized—the speediest holding of early parliamentary elections. This solution of the knot of problems will introduce calm to all strata of society and all systems of power and enable the shoots of freedom and independence to develop stably.

[Turovskiy] Returning to the conference of representatives of state television and radio companies, I somehow have little faith that it can be of any practical benefit or produce any practical results.

[Bragin] Why not? It is entirely possible. The president will take part in the conference and he is expected to deliver a speech. The conference will be attended by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other key government figures. There are grounds for believing that the conference will be a big political event, of importance to all Russia and a key event for the fate of our television and radio journalism.

Broadcasting Chiefs Adopt Address to Yeltsin

LD1208183893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Heads of state Russian regional television and radio broadcasting companies on Thursday adopted an address to the Russian president and to the prime minister. The message says that "the political struggle for the electronic media, the open striving of the parliament to assume full control of it constitute a clear threat to democracy".

It is stressed that there is a real threat of the disintegration of a common informational expanse of Russia, that the concept of preserving and developing state television and radio broadcasting is lacking, and that stable financing of television and radio broadcasting is not ensured.

The authors of the document believe the situation requires the replacement of the present leaders of the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information who do not ensure the proper management of the electronic press. In these conditions leaders of state television and radio broadcasting companies believe that Mikhail Poltoranin is the most suitable candidate to the post of the minister.

The document also calls for the adoption of a presidential decree and governmental resolution on measures of the support for the state regional television and radio broadcasting which should envisage their guaranteed financing from the federal budget and should stipulate some privileges in taxation and customs regulation. The address also mentions the need to work out a federal programme of the development of state television and radio broadcasting in Russia.

"Unless urgent measures are taken, state television and radio broadcasting companies in Russia will cease to exist by the time of the proposed preterm parliamentary election in the autunm of this year or will find themselves in the upkeep of the opposition forces, which, in the long run, will lead to the failure of the policy of reform", says the address.

Sverdlovsk TV Chief on 'Underfinancing'

LD1308103393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1842 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Speech by V. Kostousov, chairman of the Sverdlovsk Radio and Television Company, at the meeting of media representatives held in Moscow on 12 August; from the "TV Today and Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Television and radio companies find themselves in an extremely difficult financial situation. Their debt has reached about 55 billion rubles [R], whereas the Ministry of Finances intends to allocated only R14 billion and, as a result, creative collectives are breaking up and broadcast time is dwindling. Quite a few complaints about the government were voiced.

[Kostousov] Yes, today we have approached a point beyond which a collapse of the Russian state television and radio begins. We have been brought to this point by the Ministry of the Press and Information's reluctance or inability to solve in a timely way the problems that arise. You should know, Boris Nikolayevich, that today we all broadcast practically in violation of the law. Of the 90 state television and radio companies, only 20 companies hold licences to main broadcasting [osnovnoye veshchaniye], while commercial structures enjoy priority in obtaining licences—300 licences have been issued to them.

Because of underfinancing from the state budget, our staff did not receive payment for several months this year. All this destabilizes the work of creative collectives and sets them against the center. We believe, Boris Nikolayevich, that in conditions of the fierce political struggle for influencing the press the ministry's leadership, by its indecisiveness and sluggishness, simply pushes us under the wing of those political forces opposing the president and the government.

The Council of Leaders of Russian television and radio companies has authorized me to say that we will not solve the crisis with such a leadership and such a ministry in command.

Another problem I wish to dwell upon is linked to a concept of Russian television, or to be more precise, the absence of it. Such a concept should define a place for regional television, considering its importance. Even a superficial analysis of the content of programs of the Russian companies broadcasting on various channels shows that we are dealing not with Russian, but Moscow television. More than 90 percent of broadcasts for and about Russia are today prepared within Moscow.

Yeltsin's 'Inert' Policy Criticized

LD1208142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Tamara Ivanova and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Bella Kurkova, who heads St. Petersburg's Broadcasting Company, told the conference of leaders of the country's federal and regional broadcasting companies and the national and local press that the time since the August 1991 putsch has been a period of lost opportunities and the growing possibility of the party nomenklatura's return to power. She blamed the president's "inert" policy for this.

Kurkova, herself a celebrated journalist, said the president had "two negative treasures"—his closest staff whom she likened to the fifth column and rolls of red tape which strangle proposals and initiatives of his supporters.

Oleg Poptsov, chief of the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Companies, pointed to the need to have a mechanism of translating the president's decrees into life. He said Yeltsin was skilled in taking over the lead in political struggle but his team was unable to stay in the lead. Poptsov proposed setting up an all-Russia strike committee of journalists to protect the law on the press.

Shumeyko Summarizes Media Debate

LD1308084593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1850 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Remarks by Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian first deputy prime minister, at the meeting of media representatives in Moscow on 12 August; from the "TV Today and Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko summed up the debates of the first working day [of the media conference in Moscow on 12 August]. As if concluding a political discussion he said:

[Shumeyko] Each speaker on this rostrum today spoke about the problems of state television. We do not have a state. We do not have it, and hence all the problems. You should understand this more than anyone else since the media depends on you. What state there can be when, for example, each top official attended the latest event—the 50th anniversary of the Kursk battle—separately. In what state have you ever seen this? In what state is there a separate representative power, a separate executive power and, in addition, some groupings? There is no Russian state. And hence all our problems here. We one cannot put our heads in the sand like ostriches and pretend we do not see this.

There is a struggle between two political systems and this struggle is clearly expressed. The struggle has come into the open and developed into a normal open war. What state today are you talking about? I can understand when you say: Can't they in the government understand, say, about taxes. I do not really want to answer the question since it is the Supreme Soviet, not the government, that deals with taxation. I can understand that people who go to work every day don't care who and where. Common people often say, well, you in Moscow, will you ever sort things out? Or you, in the government. But we do not have a single state in the country, and we do not have a government a normal state would have, a government with full powers to execute laws.

Today, there are people who are not responsible for day-to-day work but, as if relieved from everything, are touring the country and making speeches. I am referring to the vice president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and others of that ilk. Although every time they stress their responsibility for the fate of Russia and say that unless they interfere Russia will go no one knows where, in practice they are irresponsibly bringing into life the idea that something should be done with presidential power, that Russia does not need it at present, that we should return to a monolithic state, the one we had in the Soviet Union.

Yes, we have inherited everything from it. Even our cameras say: USSR TV. Nothing has changed on these cameras; the USSR TV has remained. Technical equipment has become worse. Everything everywhere has collapsed. Every day I receive visitors and read letters. Sometimes they say, for example, that for the last 120 years there have been no major repairs. If you don't do them now, everything will die. This is interesting, because this government is not that old. Have we already managed to destroy everything and cause chaos everywhere by our actions?

[Announcer] Speaking about the problems linked directly with state television and radio companies, Vladimir Shumeyko stressed:

[Shumeyko] Yes, state television is needed. No state can afford not to have state television, since it cannot afford not to influence people by means of audio-visual products, as you say—this expression audio-visual products is an interesting one—which are produced and which affect people's minds. Naturally, the state cannot afford not to do this. The state is always concerned to live together with its citizens in a single political space, so to speak. There will be no single political entity without a single information entity of Russia, as you call it. Don't think that somebody fails to understand this

We must face the truth and admit that we cannot support the former USSR state television and radio system which remains on Russian territory with the money the government now has at its disposal. This is absolutely true, no matter what budget we make. It is impossible to support the famous four central channels at present. We will constantly underpay. And today one should overpay rather than underpay if we want to develop television

People are now arguing about debts. Yesterday we were editing in my office a decree on the financing of the state television and radio companies. We have prepared a decree, a government resolution. We will discuss it at the Presidium [of the Council of Ministers] and some changes will be made in the next few days. We must face the truth and admit that already some channel should be given to nonstate television. I am not calling it commercial. I am not calling it anything. It just does not belong to the state.

We should concentrate on what is to remain in state ownership, decide how much is to remain, and then develop it without giving it to anyone. Many speakers here mentioned this issue by talking about reduced broadcasting. Nobody is reducing anything anywhere. This matter is discussed only when the budget for next year is drawn up.

How can this denationalization be done correctly? I have the decree with me here. Yesterday we finalized it, and today it was passed to the president for signing. All official signatures are here, the last one by Chernomyrdin. The decree is called "On the Procedure for Turning into Joint-Stock Companies State Enterprises Servicing Television and Radio Broadcasting." This is the denationalization. [pauses] Damn it, I can't pronounce this word.

Here is the list attached to the decree of the enterprises to be turned into joint-stock companies. Let's have a look and see what good or bad will come out of it. The list includes: The television technical center, the famous technical center which services all Moscow channels; the state radio broadcasting and sound recording house; the all-Russian technological center; the experimental television and radio broadcasting equipment factory; the Volgograd experimental factory; the VNIITR [expansion unknown] experimental enterprise; the television film [Soyuztelefilm] creative-industrial association; the main computer center; the radio and television service union [Soyuzteleradioservis]; the specialized transport enterprise; the construction and maintenance directorate; the construction and maintenance section of the television technical center; a printing house; the Pyatnitskiy catering combine; the television technical center catering combine; the Soviet television export [Sovteleexport] foreign trade association; and a production association.

You can see these enterprises are servicing and not broadcasting enterprises. That is the first point. Ostankino made the first step toward denationalization. They began it ahead of others. They have been trying to get this decree signed for a long time. Finally, the decree has been born. Is it good or bad? Many will say it is bad, and ask why this should be done? These servicing enterprises will become joint-stock companies, and how can they communicate with them? They will not longer be able to give them orders. But we are moving toward that type of economy and toward competition. And we definitely should achieve it.

In this respect I very much liked the proposals made today to introduce a subscription fee, and we will introduce the notion of a subscription fee in the decree we were working on yesterday and I was talking about just now. And, as for its psychological aspect, this should sound in society today. A television subscription fee. Not a television excise tax, as it used to be—in the past, when you bought a television set we had to pay more because it was necessary to support television. Perhaps, a person was buying it as a piece of furniture and was not going to watch it. The subscription fee will be for the television channels people will watch.

[Announcer] The meeting will continue tomorrow.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Gives Instruction to Government on Financing

LD1208150993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian president's press service reported that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin issued an instruction today under which the Russian Government will attempt to decide issues of central financing guided by the law on the republican budget of the Russian Federation for 1993 and the proposals for its revision that were submitted to the Supreme Soviet. The instruction will be in force until the revision of the Republican budget comes into force. The instruction has been issued to ensure that the Russian financial system functions normally.

Lobov Sums Up Results of Council of Ministers Meeting

LD1208211493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Having the largest timber resources in the world, Russia uses its potentials only to 15 per cent, said Oleg Lobov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers. He addressed a news conference on Thursday to sum up the results of the meeting of the Russian Council of Ministers Presidium held today. One of the items on the agenda was endorsing the state program for afforestation in Russia. He said the program ensures rational use of timber resources and restoration of forests.

Touching upon the Russian draft law "On Amendments and Supplements to the Russian Law on Peasant (Farmer) Economy" endorsed by the meeting of the Russian Council of Ministers Presidium on Thursday, Lobov said that the draft law makes it possible to render effective aid to farmers.

Regarding the activity of consumers cooperative societies, Lobov said that, sharing the common view of the Russian Council of Ministers Presidium, he believes that consumers cooperatives proved unprepared for the market economy and that they actually turned into state structures. The government decided to give financial assistance to consumers cooperatives but at the same time stressed the need to decide on the mechanism of their activity.

Answering questions from reporters, Lobov said that in contrast to the tendency of two years ago, the country's gold reserve is increasing.

Regarding the import of food, Lobov said that Russia has unused reserves of meat, butter, wool, flax and some other items. In these conditions Russia is not interested in the import of such products. He said Russia can and must meet its own needs in basic farm products.

Lobov confirmed the government's view on the need for priority crediting of agriculture.

Presidium To Support Cooperative Societies

LD1208220293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2008 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The Presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers on Thursday decided to support consumer cooperative societies through the allocation of credits whose volume will soon be determined. At the same time it was noted that it is necessary to work out a new legislative act determining the size of shares and membership dues of participants in consumers cooperatives.

As to relations between the government and the central council of consumers cooperative societies, it was noted at the meeting that agreements between them could be concluded.

Speaking at the meeting, chairman of the board of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperative Societies in Russia, Valentin Yermakov, said that economic activity of consumers cooperatives had been complicated by the economic crisis. He said that for a steady supply of rural people with goods and timely purchase, processing and storage of farm products there is a need for 400 billion roubles of credits on easy terms. Out of this sum, 100 billion roubles are needed for urgent delivery of goods into districts of extreme north and similar localities.

Draft Law on Agricultural Cooperation Adopted

LD1208152393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A draft law on agricultural cooperation was adopted in principle at a session of the Presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers today. The law aims to speed up the development of agricultural cooperatives and also peasants' and farmers' holdings. The document will provide the legal basis for the work of agricultural cooperatives and for creating an effective system of agricultural production, marketing, provision, servicing, issuing credits, and providing insurance.

Reforestation Program Approved

LD1208133393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Aug 93

A state reforestation program for Russia was approved at today's meeting of the Council of Ministers Presidium. Allocations amounting to more than 71 billion rubles [R] for reforestation and forest protection are envisaged in the 1993 budget. In addition, R9.3 million of limits of centralized capital investments were earmarked for these purposes. In conditions of an acute deficit of the federal budget the volumes of financing envisaged in the program will be further amended when an annual budget is approved, ITAR-TASS notes.

Farmers Rally To Protest Agriculture Reforms

LD1308011693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1623 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Summary] Moscow, 12 Aug—ITAR-TASS correspondents report from various towns in Russia on mass meetings held by the rural population on the day in defense of the Russian peasant: Slogans at a mass meeting of the peasantry from 80 krays and oblasts of the Russian Federation held in Moscow outside the Russian parliament called for a stop to the disintegration of the agricultural sector, the abolition of taxes which are destroying the countryside, and for a ban on the sale of land.

The peasants have come to Moscow to tell the government that they disagree with the course of reforms which are being carried out in the countryside. Valentin Agafonov, deputy chairman of the Russian supreme Soviet, said at the meeting that the Supreme Soviet will make every effort to satisfy all the demands of the rural population.

Protest rallies of agricultural workers were held in Tambov and Rayons of Tambov Oblast on 12 August. Representatives of collective farms, state farms and agro-industrial complex complained of low purchase prices on grain, milk, and meat while taxes and fuel prices were exorbitant. Participants in the rallies supported the demands of the coordinative council of agro-industrial workers of Russia that the president of Russia, the government, and the parliament should prevent the collapse of the country's agriculture.

In Belgorod, a rally and demonstration took place on 12 August, attended by about 1,000 people involved in the agro-industrial complex in the oblast. They adopted a package of demands to the local and central government.

Representatives of all 28 rayons of Kursk Oblast assembled near the building of the Kursk Oblast administration to voice their disagreement with the policy being currently pursued with regard to the agro-industrial complex in the oblast. They demanded that economic and social rights of agricultural producers be observed, warning that otherwise the work collectives would have to resort to strikes.

In the southern rayons of Krasnoyarsk Kray, animal breeders have expressed their protest by refusing to supply milk to processing factories. The action began after the Krasnoyarsk Kray administration failed to comply with farmers' demands to bring into correspondence prices on agricultural and industrial products, to increase subsidies and enable farmers to take part in privatizing processing enterprises.

Farmers from Amur region held an hour-long rally in defense of the Russian peasants. Representatives of other branches of national economy expressed their solidarity by picketing the building of Khabarovsk kray adminstration.

First Issue of Short-Term Bonds Redeemed

PM1308105193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Ministry of Finances Redeems First Issue of Short-Term Bonds"]

[Text] The Ministry of Finances and the Central Bank of Russia have decided that on 17 August 1993 there will be an auction at the Moscow interbank currency exchange to float the fourth issue of state short-term bonds and to redeem the first issue.

It is worth noting that for perhaps the first time since the October revolution our state intends to settle its debts on time, that is to redeem the first issue of short-term—three-month—bonds issued 18 May this year. It thus reaffirms yet again the seriousness of the Russian Government's intentions of forming a civilized securities market which will make it possible to borrow money from enterprises and the population to cover state expenditure.

As for the parameters of the fourth issue of short-term bonds, its volume is set at 5.5 billion rubles [R] and the date for redeeming it is 16 November 1993. Here this issue, like the three previous ones, will be floated for the time being only among corporate bodies.

Attention is drawn by the fact that in determining the volume of the fourth issue the Ministry of Finances has obviously been cautious. After all at the first auction short-term bonds worth R885 million were sold, at the second bonds worth R2.5 billion were sold, and at the third bonds worth R4 billion. There is an almost geometric progression and on this basis the volume of the fourth issue could have been in the reion of R8 billion. Obviously the Russian Government fears that, having issued too many short-term bonds it will bring down prices for these securities.

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Approves Production of MI-28 Helicopter

LD1208200893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0337 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] A series of experimental research exercises carried out by Russia's Defense Ministry finished recently at the Kubinka test site near Moscow. The aim of the exercises was to determine the technical and combat potential of modern models of weapons and hardware. Among the examples of military hardware were the KA-50 and MI-28 combat helicopters. Our correspondent Valeriy Borisenko talks with with Academician Yevgeniy Fedosov, director of the State Scientific-Research Institute for Aviation Systems.

[Begin recording] [Borisenko] Please tell us about the trends in the development of modern combat helicopters. What are currently the main offensive systems at the disposal of the ground forces?

[Fedosov] Modern ground forces are acquiring mobility. On the battlefield, modern combat operations are accompanied by a very high degree of maneuverability. The helicopter is becoming the main weapon and an integral part of the ground forces.

There are trends toward the development of two types of helicopter. The flying tank has powerful antitank and artillery weapons to hit tanks. It is well protected and has the armor for such tasks. In addition to this, there is a helicopter which is an infantry fighting vehicle. It has lighter weapons and is capable of transporting a small group, at least. The future of ground troops lies in the combination of these two types of combat aircraft.

We are present now at the demonstration of a MI-28 combat helicopter designed by the MIL Design Buro. This helicopter can do loops and execute chandelle maneuvers. It is a two-seat helicopter, as this is a traditional design. The pilot can fly at an extremely low height and do initial target detection and the weapons operator can follow up with an exact sighting.

Another design is the one-seat helicopter, which is not yet commonly accepted in world practice and is the subject of great controversy. But the Kamov Design Buro has designed the KA-50, which reflects this controversial design.

[Borisenko] Why is it controversial? Do they think that one pilot cannot handle the whole gamut of tasks assigned to him?

[Fedosov] It is assumed that the pilot should always have a true-to-scale view of the locale through the cockpit, and for exact targeting you need a very narrow field of view, almost as though you were looking through binoculars, which the operator's sights provide. This incompatibility of fields of view does not allow the pilot to do exact targeting. But if the task of targeting or escorting the target can be achieved by automatic means, then the job of the operator actually becomes redundant. That is where the KA-50 helicopter comes in.

This, of course, is a technological breakthrough. Admittedly, there is still a lot of debate about it in helicopter circles but I believe the matter of reducing the number of crew members is a very big economic factor since the training of a modern crew is very expensive. [end recording]

We may add that as a result of these exercises, the Defense Ministry has decided on the serial production of the MI-28 two- seater combat helicopter.

Commander Views Situation in Air Defense Forces

LD1208182093 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The debate over Russia's Defense Ministry shows no sign of letting up. Remember what Marshal Shaposhnikov said, in going into retirement, to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev about the transfer of the nuclear button, which he controlled when he was commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Then there was the resolution adopted by the all-Russian conference on the social and legal protection of servicemen and members of their families. Among other things, it referred to intolerable delays in implementing the Russian Federation law on the status of servicemen. The conference ended the day before yesterday, if I'm not mistaken.

There have also been warnings at all levels about the grave consequences which could result from the reforms being carried out in Russia's Armed Forces. It has even been suggested that they might disintegrate. Don't forget the tragic fate of Russian soldiers who have found themselves drawn into events on the Tajik- Afghan border, and so on and so forth. In other words, passions are running quite high enough as it is.

Obviously, therefore, the debate needs to be given specific shape and applied to the situation as it now affects the various branches of the Armed Forces. Today the Air Defense Forces, the most defensive of all, are our example. We will try to analyze their situation. Listen to an interview that Colonel General Viktor Pavlovich Sinitsyn, chief of the main staff of Russia's Air Defense Forces, gave to our correspondent Vyacheslav Morozov.

[Begin recording] [Sinitsyn] The main feature of the reforms which are being carried out is the expectation that the Air Defense Forces should assume defensive responsibilities for the territory of the Russian Federation, for the borders of the Russian Federation. A small proportion of our Air Defense Forces are still in Turkmenistan, and a small proportion in the Baltic republics. But these forces are also scheduled to leave those territories and to come home in accordance with an established timetable.

Air defense troops remaining in Belarus and Ukraine have been transferred to the jurisdiction of those republics. But we are withdrawing our forces from the Baltic republics and from all the republics of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia, using them to guard and strengthen our own Russian borders with the Baltic republics and with the Transcaucasus and Central Asia.

[Morozov] As we know, the basis of air defense is surveillance. How is this being conducted now? To what extent have our surveillance resources been modernized, and to what extent have they kept pace with modernization in strike forces operated by our likely enemy and the leading armies of the world?

[Sinitsyn] The Air Defense Forces are now equipped with the most up-to-date surveillance resources, including radio and radio technical systems and radar tracking systems. But as I have already said, many sectors of the state border have lacked manpower and resources in the past, and we are having to make redeployments from the Baltic republics and other regions, to resettle forces in new places, to deploy them, and to establish a radar tracking system.

I feel that the technical resources which we have at our disposal are in no way inferior to the contemporary offensive weapons which our likely enemy has at his disposal. The second thing I would like to say is that all the prospective surveillance systems that our scientists and design offices are working on are receiving sufficient funding.

[Morozov] Could you please talk about the impact of political and economic instability in the country on the combat readiness of Air Defense Forces? After all, in the "Science of Victory," Suvorov described morale as the army's main weapon.

[Sinitsyn] This is a very complicated issue. The Air Defense Forces are just as affected by difficulties as other branches of the armed services. The most acute question, in my view, is understaffing in the Air Defense Forces. As a result of laws adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, a very large number of young people who are old enough to serve in the Armed Forces have now received deferments from service in various contingents.

The situation will be particularly difficult this autumn, when we are supposed to discharge two sets of conscripts at one time as a consequence of the decision to go over to an 18-month period of service in the Armed Forces. This is a sore question which, naturally, requires a fundamental solution. Some steps have been taken to alleviate the situation. We have been given permission to switch to contract service, and this is being done, but contract service is catching on only slowly at the moment. The second question is the number of servicemen for whom there is no housing.

Another factor is the need to make cuts in the Armed Forces, including the Air Defense Forces. Everybody is aware of the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet which stipulates that the strength of the Armed Forces should be no more than 1 percent of the total population. A similar quota is being set for us, too, in the Air Defense Forces. Many officers, including young ones, are affected by the cuts. Once again this requires additional effort, additional funds to set them up in civilian life.

Of course, just like the other branches of the Armed Forces, we experience certain difficulties in providing our troops with all they need to organize their lives and spare time, and certain difficulties in arranging combat training. Substantially fewer resources are available for the organization of combat training, aircraft flights, and other routine measures with which we have never had difficulties before.

[Morozov] Viktor Pavlovich, there is another question one is entitled to ask: Although Russia's new military doctrine has not yet been adopted, the government and the president have already declared that our army will not be an offensive one but defensive. The very term Air Defense Forces makes it clear that these troops have a defensive role. Therefore, one would expect the government and the president to treat the Air Defense Forces as a slightly special case. Do you sense this or not?

[Sinitsyn] Your question is a logical one. In principle our entire doctrine, Russia's present doctrine, is indeed geared to strengthening our defenses. We do not intend to attack anybody. We have even abandoned the term likely enemy. Instead we talk about a potential enemy. As a branch of the services which has a primary role in strengthening the defense of the country, the defense of the Armed Forces, air defense troops naturally enjoy great solicitude from our leadership.

An example of this is the president's signing of a decree on the Air Defense Forces. In it he clearly stipulated that the Air Defense Troops are to be maintained as a separate branch of the Armed Forces and will be regarded as a separate branch of the Armed Forces. Second, it clearly spelled out the tasks and structure of the Air Defense Forces. Naturally, therefore, the signing of this decree is a great boost to us, the commanders of the Air Defense Forces, and to all other officers of the Air Defense Forces as we go about the tasks we face. [end recording]

Kokoshin Hosts Conference on Munitions Sector

PM1308090393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service report: "Conference Has Taken Place"]

[Text] On 10 August Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, held an interdepartmental conference on questions of preserving and developing the defense industry's munitions sector.

According to Kokoshin, this sector needs the state to pay particular attention to it both because of its importance to the Armed Forces and the specific nature of its production, including from the viewpoint of guaranteeing continuous production and production safety.

Participants in the conference carried out an in-depth analysis of the situation in the sector and of the requirements of the Defense Ministry and other state clients, and outlined a series of measures to resolve the most serious problems which have accumulated.

Colonel General Vyacheslav Mironov, chief of armament of the Russian Federation Armed Forces; Lieutenant General Andrey Bykov, Russian Federation deputy security minister; Yuriy Starodub, deputy chairman of the Russian Committee for the Defense Industry; leaders of the client directorates of branches of the armed services and categories of troops, and representatives of industry participated in the conference.

Profitability of SLBM's Used for Commercial Launches Viewed

PM1208144893 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Aug 93 First Edition p 15

[Article by Sergey Tutorskaya, accompanied by a photograph captioned "The launch vehicle 'Shtil'—a component of the 'Priboy' launcher": "Ballistic Missiles Can Be Destroyed... Profitably"]

[Text] The destruction of a sea-launched ballistic missile [SLBM] costs around 1 million rubles [R]. But if the contents of its nose cone are changed, a commercial launch could bring in profits.

According to the agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons these missiles are liable for destruction. Salvaging one SLBM could cost up to R800,000 at late 1992 prices. Whereas if it is refitted and the deadly charge removed, it can be fitted with technical or scientific research apparatus.

It is well known that systems for growing crystals or forming alloys have long operated on board orbital stations and spaceships. Conditions of weightlessness or microgravity considerably alter the course of processes; substances with new properties are created.

Our "Photon" and "Bion" devices have also frequently operated in space, making highly pure biologically active substances through biotechnological methods. A state of microgravity is also created during the flight of a missile through a normal ballistic trajectory. It lasts for 17-40 minutes depending on the type of missile. But this is sufficient to produce a certain quantity of valuable products.

The trajectory of an SLBM, on which "Sprint" systems for growing crystals or "Medusa" systems for biotechnical processes could be mounted, is near to vertical (it is described as quasivertical). The device climbs steeply upward and descends almost to its launch area or to another point where it is expected. The carrier sections fall away. But the nose cone containing the apparatus and the product made are lowered gently on parachutes. The conditions of weightlessness are as good as in long flights, and the advantage is that valuable substances can be produced and returned to earth fairly quickly.

In order to assess the scale of such work in other countries, suffice it to say that the United States, France, the FRG, Austria, Japan, and China are carrying out programs for the purification of biological and medicinal preparations through the method of electrophoresis in conditions of weightlessness on space devices of the Space Shuttle type, and also on parabolic aircraft flights. It is interesting to note that around 30 percent of the state budget funding which the FRG allocates to new technologies in space development work is for biotechnology.

Access to the world market for our specialists who produce valuable biological preparations is not easy. They have to prove first of all that the bone growth factor that offers the possibility of curing osteoporosis, immuno-modulators to boost our defenses, or endorphines and encephalines with analgesic effects, anticancer interferons and also interlakins [interleykiny]—that all these preparations are in no way inferior to foreign counterparts. In the long term they will all recover their costs well.

True, the prospect of their "landing" on the pharmacist's shelf is not near. In 1991 and 1992 "Sprint" and "Medusa" underwent test launches. The results are being studied.

Questions of producing new preparations and materials during launches and other problems of the peaceful reorientation of SLBM's are being studied by the Russian Association for the Conversion of Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles. The association's president is Admiral Fedor Novoselov, retired.

Certain qualities of Russian SLBM's and the possibility of using them to launch space devices from the sea's surface have interested U.S. specialists and entrepreneurs. A joint Russian-U.S. enterprise is being set up. This enterprise will use ICBM's for commercial space launches. Our launch vehicles will lift into space other countries' satellites and apparatus, exclusively for peaceful purposes.

On the U.S. side the enterprise is headed by Admiral Tomas Murur [name as transliterated], retired, and on our side by Fedor Novoselov.

One of the promising missiles which will be used by the joint enterprise is the launch vehicle "Priboy." It will be launched from water, from a vertical position. "Priboy," developed by the Academician Viktor Makeyev Machine Building Design Bureau in Miass in the Urals, is extremely economical to launch and posseses a large payload capacity. It will be used mainly for launching foreign space devices for peaceful purposes. Money derived from commercial launches will partly go toward building houses for Navy servicemen and partly for the conversion of enterprises.

The fact that scientists are engaging in space bioengineering and the production of new preparations and materials with the help of space technology at a difficult time, when you cannot buy even a simple antibiotic at the pharmacist's when you need it, is of course, contentious. But even in more difficult times man has sometimes not neglected to raise his gaze from the sinful earth and contemplate the stars, his future.

Military Housing Construction Program 'Collapsing'

PM1208132193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Video report by A. Ostrovskiy and O. Nikiforov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Ostrovskiy] The state program for the provision of housing for the military is collapsing. The Ministry of Finance is not allocating money to the military construction workers, and the figure of 120,000 homeless servicemen threatens to rise to 400,000 due to troops returning from abroad, graduates from military academies, and contract servicemen, plus 120,000 men released from the Army without housing. For this very reason the state program for the withdrawal of troops from abroad is also in jeopardy. In the next two years there will literally be a half-million-strong army of homeless in Russia with weapons in their hands.

[N. Chekov, Russian Federation Armed Forces chief for construction and billeting of troops] There has been no improvement on the most important issue—funding of capital construction. Our debts are rising and have already topped 200 billion. The debts which I have mentioned are essentially paralyzing the entire construction complex today.

[R. Istomin, chief of the Main Military Construction Directorate] Military construction workers have always worked in difficult conditions. But our present situation is simply unprecedented.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Address to Citizens on Yeltsin 'Threats'

[illegible]1208164493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Address to the citizens of Russia by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov in the Moscow television studio on 12 August; from the "Parliamentary Hour" program—live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed fellow countrymen, I am forced to make the following statement to you today. The fact is that in the last few days the president and his entourage unexpectedly made a number of threatening statements. These threats which, frankly speaking, give an uncomfortable feeling to any normal human being, are leveled against the constitutional system of the country, against the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and against the peaceful and quiet life of the people. The following words could be heard in those statements: We are currently involved in artillery preparation and the decisive battles are to take place in September. Or, another remark, also from a presidential speech: Unless the parliament holds an election immediately, I shall make the decision myself this autumn. I wonder who the target of the artillery preparation is and whom the president is going to fight. If you take us parliamentarians, for example, we are peaceful people, and apart from the force of law and the force of the Constitution we have no other weapons. You know yourselves what decisions may be possibly meant here. Most probably, they would be decisions involving forcible, nonconstitutional methods.

What has happened, then? One would think the parliament was involved in patient and fruitful work drafting and adopting new laws. For instance, in the last two weeks alone we adopted about 10 of them. Incidentally, taking into consideration the tense and complicated situation in the country, we had to interrupt our deputies' leave, convene a session, and resume normal work. At the initiative of the Supreme Soviet, as you have already heard, and in agreement with the government, constructive roundtable decisions have been prepared. A declaration of nationwide accord on the economic reform has been worked out. An all-Russian economic conference has started work, which has blueprinted a whole system of priority measures aimed at stabilizing the economy, industrial production, and agriculture. The Supreme Soviet has adopted a peaceable and constructive declaration, a political declaration the principal idea of which is the need to search for a peaceful, concerted solution to all issues which concern the people and our entire society.

Incidentally, the government recently held its own expanded sitting, and essentially approved an economic action program for the next two years. You may not agree completely, but the government leaders themselves say that they are continuing their work, and this work will evidently be continued jointly with the Supreme Soviet. Then suddenly you get another threatening speech, a new level of confrontation, and let us say it right out, without any reason whatsoever. You get the impression that confused people are looking for some sort of reason, something to hang on to. The Supreme Soviet, for example, is being accused of suspending privatization, not letting citizens use their privatization checks. I would like to say that we have repeatedly said, and affirmed by specific Supreme Soviet decisions, that of course the Supreme Soviet supports privatization, of course it supports reform. It was the Supreme Soviet which adopted a special law last year to regulate the whole process. What is all this about?

The fact is that according to the law currently in force in the Russian Federation, a privatization program and the appropriate draft law prepared by the government should be presented to the Supreme Soviet. Well, we do not have the program, we have not been presented a draft law on privatization, privatization is proceeding in a chaotic fashion, enterprises and factories are effectively falling into the hands of swindlers, mafia structures, and various foreign characters [zayezzhikh litsov]. Of course the people are so far only losing out, losing what they have built up over several generations.

What can a man buy for this check, by the way, for 10,000 rubles? As you remember, it was issued last year when it was actually worth something. Naturally we, the Supreme Soviet, are putting forward a question on index-linking these checks, so that when a person gets his legitimate share of the labor he has invested he should really get his share, so he should really feel a part of the process of privatization which is going on. Does a working man really have an interest in some factories or workshops changing from state property to being owned by shady characters in a matter of two or three months? That's what all this is about. So we are demanding one thing only, and of course we will get it: that the privatization process should proceed according to the law.

Later on a new card is played: the adoption by the Supreme Soviet of the law on the budget for 1993. In this connection I want to state the following. The government presented the budget to the Supreme Soviet after a delay of more than six months. The budget was presented in an extremely raw, unfinished form. The Supreme Soviet has begun to polish this budget thoroughly, with the involvement of people from the government. During the finalization, we have been compelled to restore expenditure on education, culture, science, health care, social ends, pensions, defense factories, support for the ethnic minorities in the north, defense, and providing for servicemen, who for some reason were entirely artificially, and frankly speaking inhumanly, excluded from budget spending. That is what we are talking about. In other words, the Supreme Soviet, in spite of these complications and difficulties, is trying to make people's lives more or less bearable, in these genuinely complex and difficult conditions.

Of course, restoring this expenditure has led to an increase in the budget deficit. But what else are we to do? We cannot leave millions of people and very important branches of the national economy without the means to exist simply for the sake of artificially reducing the deficit. After all, we must look after our country, preserve the lives of the people. We must give them work, and give their children hope for tomorrow. That is what those articles of the budget were about which the president is subjecting to such damning criticism.

Of course, we understand that a large budget deficit is a very bad thing. Who does not understand that? The Supreme Soviet understands it too. But we must decrease the budget deficit by increasing revenue, and not by artificially cutting expenditure at the people's expense. The executive authority is not aiming for an increase in revenue. It is not developing the economy and entrepreneurship. On the contrary, it is artificially augmenting various apparatus structures. For instance, the following data could be quoted. The managerial apparatus in Russia has become even more numerous than it was in the Union two or three years ago. This is, for example, one of the classes of expenditure which could be considerably reduced and which could yield additional income.

Thus, the president's accusations are absolutely groundless, and in fact, there are no grounds for such belligerent statements. I think these statements are caused by the following reason. Any kind of constructive work and a search for concord are not to certain figures' liking. As soon as we approach such a path—that is, concord—as soon as such a period in the development of our society comes nearer and we find some ways of agreed actions, immediately another wave of confrontation begins. This was the case on the eve of 20 March, you remember, when the president uttered threatening statements calling, in essence, for a coup d'etat. Certain actions were undertaken then, too, but it was possible at the time to prevent the terrible beginning of a civil war by joint efforts of the Supreme Soviet, the Constitutional Court, law enforcement bodies, and regions. Now, it looks like provocations are being prepared to start from 20 August. In these conditions, I appeal to our compatriots: Do not worry, dear compatriots; there is no need for alarm. We will defend the constitutional system by the force of our laws, Constitution, the prestige of the Supreme Soviet, local bodies of power, and the will of our compatriots. All that is unconstitutional will not pass. One should understand that authority and respect which are irretrievably lost cannot be restored through belligerent slogans. Incidentally, the time of leaders is in the past, too, and this time cannot be returned. The Supreme Soviet is not going to answer this provocation by the same means and expressions. We will simply work calmly for the benefit of our people, our great country, and our people who are going through very hard times. We have to adopt and amend our laws, taking into account the new conditions and relations that are emerging; we have to ensure that these laws are strictly implemented.

It is this that can guarantee the salvation of the country. At the same time one should be on the alert, one should follow the situation closely. Adventurers cannot be allowed to throw the country into chaos. I call on my fellow citizens, on all people's deputies, beginning from rural soviets, and on all local representative bodies of power. No matter where you are this summer holiday period, be extremely attentive and prepared for all sorts of actions. In any case, first of all, be prepared to try to achieve an unquestioning implementation of our laws and of our Constitution. I call on our fellow citizens to support democracy, to support that fragile equilibrium in which we are living. So far we have managed to live without wars and major conflicts. We believe that all vexed and complex questions can be resolved peacefully and without rushing, by discussing, debating, and agreeing on them for the sake of our people and for the sake of the prosperity of our fatherland. Thank you.

Khasbulatov Approves Idea of Coalition Government

MK1308084693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 1

[Ruslan Khasbulatov letter to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA under "Letter to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" rubric: "Ruslan Khasbulatov Declares Himself in Favor—Response by the Supreme Soviet Chairman to Proposals Made in the Article 'The Agony of the Political Regime is Unmistakable'"]

[Text] Although Mr. Khasbulatov's letter to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA is of a private nature, the editors decided to publish it because it is very important today to know the personal position of each key participant in the political process in Russia.

12 August 1993

To: Chief editor of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA V.T. Tretyakov

Esteemed Vitaliy Toviyevich,

I have read with great interest your article in the issue of 11 August this year about ways of overcoming the political crisis. I share most of the points made and substantiated by you; and if it was in my power, I would immediately start implementing them, especially in view of the fact that I have repeatedly advanced similar ideas myself.

You are right: The idea of a government of national trust (a coalition government) appears to be the most realistic. If this idea could be translated into life, we would ensure more or less favorable conditions for the pursuit of both economic and political reforms—there is no doubt about this. Actually, such a serious step is in fact the sole reasonable option in the current situation, unless one counts on an "ultimate victory" by somebody. The latter appears simply impossible to me in view of the inevitable catastrophic consequences for society and the state.

Thank you for your article.

Respectfully yours,

[Signed] R. Khasbulatov

Khasbulatov Seen Trying To Split Government

PM1208144193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Aleksandr Bekker: "Parliament Can Still Get the Better of the Government, But Not the Economy"]

[Text] The last two weeks have produced three absorbing questions. "The signing of the Declaration of Nationwide Economic Accord is an exceptionally important step," Ruslan Khasbulatov said at the All-Russia Economic Conference. "Let me repeat once again (for the umpteenth time) that society clearly underestimates the accord..."

Why did the speaker harp on to such an extent about the merits of a document to which he and Viktor Chernomyrdin gave their blessing a month ago? And why did the All-Russia Economic Conference, which took place under the patronage of the Supreme Soviet and prepared a tolerable, albeit banal, resolution, suddenly go off the rails and demand that the government resign "for ruining the national economy"? And, last, why was the premier intemperate at the "enlarged" Council of Ministers session 6 August, cutting off Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Yuriy Voronin with the words—there's no need to tell us the obvious? What happened? After all, Voronin, who was speaking "of the need for quite a substantial change in the reforms," was in essence reiterating the provisions of the declaration that Chernomyrdin had already approved.

The April referendum convinced the opposition that you cannot bring down the president and his economic course with a head-on attack. Leaving the glossy slogan of "socially oriented reforms" for public consumption, R. Khasbulatov radically changed tactics. His tactics are to drive a wedge between Yeltsin and the government and isolate those members of the cabinet of ministers who have ideological connections with liberal "theorems." The speaker expertly plays on pride by hinting that the prime minister is under the president's thumb and that "we have two or three governments and you cannot tell which is the main one." The aim of the "shots" is obvious: They are trying to pin criminal charges on Shumeyko, but are failing to remember Lobov and the saga of the establishment of the Russo-Japanese university. For a while they have forgotten Shokhin, who has withdrawn into the background, but they are working to ensure that Chubays does not think his job a picnic. Glazyev, minister of foreign economic relations, who arrived on the scene with Gaydar, suits them because of his "state-minded" views, but Finance Minister Fedorov, who came along later, is presented as the scourge of the economy. There is no public abuse of any sectoral minister, although the opposition is exploiting the subject of the industrial slump for all it is worth.

Mr. Khasbulatov knew what he was doing in speeding up the "roundtable" involving the government, the parliament, and parties—he was accelerating the demarcation within the Council of Ministers. Clearly, Lobov, Soskovets, and Yefimov can agree with Fedorov and Chubays on indicative planning, price regulation, and state holdings only via a duel. The Declaration of Nationwide Economic Accord that resulted from the "roundtable" is presented by Ruslan Khasbulatov as a social contract for escaping from the crisis similar to a number of Western models. However, that comparison is a shaky one. The "Moncloa pact" in Spain opened up an opportunity to rapidly jettison enterprises that did not join the market. Poland first curbed inflation and is now building up production. Israel, which is effectively socialist, conducted privatization via a "contract package."

In our country the declaration preserves an economy that is neither one thing nor the other: "the creation of conditions for the effective operation of privatized enterprises, including the prevention of mass bankruptcy." Why, one wonders, privatize state enterprises if "prevention" is then needed? Who establishes the "mass" nature of bankruptcy, on the basis of what number? Since Russia already has a register of monopolist enterprises and their profitability is limited, the proposed "regulation of the level or dynamics of prices... in base sectors of the economy" represents a step toward reinforcing administrative fiat. Since the wages fund is now being cut by taxation, the linkage in the declaration between "the wage fund at enterprises under various forms of ownership and the results of production activity" constitutes a throwback to socialism. Since the declaration's authors consider income tax insufficient, it is, of course, necessary for equality's sake to "raise taxation on extremely high incomes," and the champions of the "socially-oriented economy" will decide what is "extremely high." At every convenient opportunity the opposition reiterates its pro-Russian nature. But they forgot that when they pushed the Western practice of cartel agreements into the declaration. In Russia today price restrictions reciprocally agreed between enterprises and sectors are a pipe dream. Fresh evidence of that is provided by the fiasco of the talks between the miners and metallurgists regarding the price of coal under the auspices of First Vice Premier Soskovets.

Be that as it may, Mr. Khasbulatov has "tied down" the government with the declaration. It is an element in the overall strategy of peacefully amending the government's course, while at the same time eliminating the "odd men out." Chubays' positions have been weakened in favor of the sectoral ministers. Shumeyko has been replaced by Soskovets as chairman of the Council for Industrial Policy. Several master strokes were all that was needed. One of these was intended to be the All-Russia Economic Conference, which Viktor Chernomyrdin was nominated to cochair where and Soskovets was nominated as keynote speaker. Boris Yeltsin wrecked the plans on his return from vacation: He canceled the "fraternization" on Tsvetnoy Boulevard. "And Viktor Stepanovich regrettably by no means proved the boldest of men," the speaker said in his customary manner. His overt irritation evidently transmitted itself to the hall and the draft resolution was shelved first. The conference was out for the government's blood at the next Congress of People's Deputies.

The program for the development of reforms that was approved in advance by the "extended" Council of Ministers session will not defuse the situation either. That was not the kind of stabilization—with the emphasis on anti-inflationary measures and reducing the budget deficit—that the parliament, sectoral vice premiers, and some directors were expecting. The comment in the text of the program that a "radical change of course and a switch to a fundamentally different version of socioeconomic policy would lead to catastrophe" added fuel to the fire.

Obviously, Mr. Khasbulatov will avoid outright confrontation with the president and the Council of Ministers before the fall, since the people would side consciously and instinctively with the executive in a situation of drastic confrontation. The speaker will try his best to impose his own concept for the country's economic development. At the same time he hurled a transparent hint at the government; "We will try to work together until we see fully that it is impossible to work any longer, then, pardon me for saying so, we will send you packing. That is our right, that is the right of both the Supreme Soviet and the Congress." Presumably, at that same Congress they will make another attempt to impeach Yeltsin and pass their version of the constitution. Resignation, impeachment, and the constitution are the three moves in the fall that will probably checkmate the president and reforms.

What next? What could Mr. Khasbulatov do if he comes to power? He can personally set the rate of the ruble to the dollar, declare a freeze on prices and incomes, announce the state order at subsidized prices, and other extremely valuable ideas. But Khasbulatov will not be able to cope with the new economy just as Gaydar was unable to handle the old one.

Yeltsin Returns Religious Freedoms Law to Supreme Soviet

MK1208125093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Yeltsin Did Not Sign Law"]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet has received for repeat review the law "On Amendments to the Law 'On Religious Freedoms,'" which was not signed by Boris Yeltsin. The president's lawyers found in the text of the law both contradictions with international legal documents and inconsistencies between its various articles. Article 14 has elicited the greatest number of objections, and to virtually all of its parts. It specifies how and where citizens of Russia can satisfy their religious requirements, and demands that foreign religious organizations seek accreditation from the state and prohibits their religious work, missionary work, publishing, advertising, and propaganda activities. According to Supreme Soviet Presidium Secretary Vitaliy Syrovatko, a repeat review of the returned law will probably take place next week.

Rumyantsev on Constitutional Disagreements

LD1208180693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Today's discussion in the Russian Supreme Soviet of a draft law on changes and additions to the Constitution of the Russian Federation has shown "extremely alarming moments", according to Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS he said that chairman of the new Committee for Constitutional Legislation, Vladimir Isakov, is putting into effect an idea which he expressed when being recommended for this post: a new constitution is not needed, therefore it is necessary to prepare amendments to the one now in force.

Thus, Oleg Rumyantsev stresses, a kind of dual power has been created—the Committee for Constitutional Legislation and the working group of the Constitutional Commission. The new Constitution in a new wording is due to be adopted in November this year. But "if we change the present Constitution as it is proposed today, the new Constitution will not be needed," the executive secretary of the Commission pointed out.

According to Oleg Rumyantsev, the proposed changes "create an unprecedented form of government with all specific features of a parliamentary republic, a complete guidance of the government and a new procedure of a decision on the government resignation will lead to a leap-frog way of replacing governments, and curtailing the president's rights."

The three years' experience of studies by the Constitutional Commission in the field of forms of government was not taken in consideration in preparing this draft of the constitution, Oleg Rumyantsev noted saying that the commission proposes a mixed parliamentary-presidential republic. "If this document remains in an unchanged form and is adopted by the Congress of Russian People's deputies, the fate of the new Constitution will be problematic as it contains different conceptual clauses," the executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission pointed out.

In reply to a question by ITAR-TASS whether the Parliament's approval of amendments to the present Constitution means that the Congress of Russian People's Deputies may decline to discuss the new Constitution at all, Oleg Rumyantsev said that there is a Supreme soviet's decision to submit a draft of the new Constitution to the Congress at the first reading, and he hopes that the Congress will agree to consider it.

But if the Congress or the Supreme Soviet "whittle down the draft of the new Constitution, the concepts contained in the proposed draft law, will have appalling prospects. An absolute disbalance of powers will take place, and the return to the model which we used to call the soviet power," the executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission noted.

According to the people's deputy, he has nothing against soviets, but then this will make it necessary to reject the principle of division of powers, their balance and their checking which is inadmissible.

Stepashin Article Discusses National Security

PM1208151193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 93 pp 2-3

[Article by Russian People's Deputy and Candidate of Historical Sciences Sergey Vadimovich Stepashin, chairman of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions, under "Russia's Interests" rubric: "The Country Needs a Security Concept, But We Are Not Yet Ready To Adopt It"]

[Text] It is time we realized that it is certainly not decibels of loud political blather that resolve Russia's security problems. Arguments over national security have recently assumed a noisy and somewhat fussy nature. This is all because, owing to the inertia of the past, it seems to certain particularly impatient people that Russia's problems can be resolved by adopting one more fateful program. But we have no need of hysterical outbursts on this front. Without political stability, a healthy economy, and a combat-capable army a hastily prepared national security concept will remain nothing more than an illusion. Of course, what I mean by national security is a component of the security of the entire country and of the Russian nation as a whole, not ethnic security.

Analysis of the work of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions provides weighty grounds for concluding that the national security concept is being shaped in accordance with a quite clear vision—not subject to the interplay of forces—of the country's military-political course during the transitional period. This course is systematically implemented to the extent that the limited resources available permit. The time will come when the new Russia will switch in earnest from resolving problems of survival to shaping a "new world order." But first we will all have to do some work and fit normal wheels to the "bird troika" and only then argue over the direction in which it should fly.

Only just over a year has elapsed since the Russian Federation law "On Security" was adopted. It enshrines a qualitatively new, democratic approach to understanding this problem and contains the basic principles of the concept of the state's security. The rapidly developing situation in the country made it necessary to bring forward the implementation of the concluding stage of the process of the comprehensive interpretation of Russia's state priorities. I mean the elaboration of a strategy of the country's security in which the country's current and long-term aims must be synthesized so that Russians can acquire feelings of unity and prospects.

The starting point for implementing this strategy is the key provision of the aforementioned law, which defines security as "the state of protection of the vitally important interests of the individual, society, and the state against internal and external threats." This depends primarily on the principal elements of the country's social, economic, military, and foreign policy integrated in a unified, interconnected course geared to realizing ends which unite the country's peoples in respect of the country's internal structure and its position in the system of other states. Thus, the national security strategy is the product of a consensus among the key protagonists of the country's internal political process. Its viability is determined by the degree of balance of interests when realizing the tasks of the intermediate stages in the process of achieving long-term aims or, at least, by constant maintenance of the dynamic equilibrium of the aspirations of various forces within the country.

In the most optimum version, however, this strategy must represent not so much a course realized by the latest government according to the way it sees it, simply because it is in power, as a statewide aim which maintains continuity and is also shared by opposition forces—which is characteristic of civilized political systems. It is hardly feasible to ensure this condition in Russia before the adoption of the new constitution, and this confirms yet again the pressing need for a most speedy constitutional reform.

The problem of formulating statewide value guidelines has become particularly urgent and, regardless of all the complexities, does not tolerate passive waiting, nor thoughtless acceleration in accordance with populist prescriptions.

However difficult the situation in and around the country might be following the breakup of the USSR, Russia's citizens have a right to expect their leaders to clearly set forth national aims which we will seek to realize during the postsocialist period of development. Our partners and potential allies in turn also expect Russia to be definite with regard to its future plans. Without this they cannot assess the extent to which their interests coincide with Russia's—which creates suspicion and slows up the development of cooperation. At the same time one of the compulsory attributes of great-power status is an unambiguous statement about precisely what a power regards as an encroachment on its security and vital interests.

The great effort that was needed to elaborate the main areas of the reform of the country's economy and political system and the concept of foreign policy and military doctrine has only now yielded the first results. In this connection the complaints being made about the lack of a national security concept are perfectly valid in principle, although they appear somewhat premature.

Of course, it is not easy to admit this, but there is a certain degree of truth in the claims that Russia is not yet a state. We will acquire an effective national security strategy when we become aware of the kind of society we are building, of the kind of external conditions we will regard as favorable for building it, and of the strategic area that will be subject to unconditional defense, even including the use of the Armed Forces.

Finally, the decisive condition, which probably should have been mentioned first of all, is that the constitutional power of the central organs of state management must be ensured in full throughout the country's territory. It is necessary to rule out the emergence of such "islands of independence" as Chechnya, whose ruling grouping ventures to threaten to turn Moscow into a "disaster zone" and gets away with it. In the United States, whose political system many people in our country consider a model of state management, such a new "sovereign" formation would be destined to exist for no more than a few hours. Russian laws must be fulfilled and, where necessary, this must be enforced. From the viewpoint of national security it is far more important to be tough with regard to silencing a princeling with a small estate who has gone too far than to endlessly keep looking round at the possible negative reaction abroad to these steps.

The existing complexities of the country's socioeconomic and sociopolitical development have their objective causes, which are known and have been analyzed in detail. At the same time a whole number of negative phenomena in the country—these can include, to a certain extent, the unregulated accumulation of primary capital, the badly controlled export of strategic raw materials, violations of the constitution, and the ignoring of edicts with impunity—are the direct consequence of a lack of political will to use the mechanism of state management for the purpose of ensuring compliance with laws. This applies equally also to interethnic relations, which have recently become the main factor in the gamut of threats to Russia's territorial integrity. The surmounting of this weakness or, more accurately, of the crisis of power is the decisive precondition for shaping and realizing a viable national security strategy.

A special feature of the functioning of Russia's political system, which has deep national roots, is the personification of the political struggle in the country. The results of the April referendum and the numerical distribution of the supporters of the "presidential" and "parliamentary" versions of the constitution provide grounds for maintaining that public support for one branch of power or another was dictated by emotional and charismatic considerations rather than by the criteria of a single political world outlook or preference for any determining option for the political system or the country's way out of the crisis.

Allegations by opposing political groupings that capitalism is being introduced in Russia by force or that there is a desire to restore socialism do not reflect objective reality. There simply are no clear-cut party, state, or public platforms for a switch to a market economy or a return to the edict-administrative system of production and distribution, and these concepts themselves are used in the mutual struggle as a means of polarizing the masses around individuals.

As long as this situation persists, the country's security interests, adjusted "to fit the leader," will be unable to acquire the long-term nature objectively inherent in them. In the admission of former U.S. President G. Bush, events such as the disintegration of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact, which cardinally changed the course of world history, have merely "shaken" the unshakable foundations of the postwar policy of ensuring the national interests and security of the United States.

The system of values that is of vital importance to the United States (i.e. that which was called ideology in the USSR and which has simply disappeared in Russia), geopolitical requirements, and general national interests have remained unchanged for a long time, at least throughout the postwar period. Only the tactics of realizing the statewide U.S. goal have been corrected, depending on the political situation in the world. This results not from dogmatic following of the program once set but from the inalienable property of the permanence of the national interests of the country as a whole, since the leader in power in a democratic state is obliged to reflect the interests not only of his own voters but also of society as a whole within the term of office allocated to him. But if society has been split, and the opposing sides are headed by the top representatives of the executive and legislative branches of power, it essentially becomes impossible to elaborate a national integrated strategy.

In the political system of the Russian Federation there are many parties, groupings, and organizations which have practically no social support and which operate depending on their current assessments of the political situation. These forces are very active in the mass media, at various forums, and in contacts with representatives of foreign states. Foreign analysts who derive information about the development of the internal political situation in Russia from these sources obtain information which far from always reflects the public's true sentiments correctly.

And yet there must be no discrepancy between the external world's perception of Russia and the essence of the way in which our country officially "proclaims itself to the world" by making public its domestic aims and international positions. Such a discrepancy does exist, however, and it could make it hard to overcome the suspicions left over from the times of the recent "cold war" with regard to our country's intentions. This circumstance will probably be taken into account when drawing up the Russian national security doctrine, otherwise it will hinder Russia's integration in the existing world order.

Whereas previously the determining factor was the military political confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact and between the United States and the USSR, the starting point for relations between the Russian Federation and the West now is the mutual desire for cooperation. This, however, certainly does not rule out a divergence of interests or make it easy to resolve questions in the system of new relations. We confidently defended our interests in the face of a military opponent, whereas in the role of a partner we are fettered by the "post-Soviet penitence syndrome," and in some situations we feel like a timid suppliant in the antechamber of the world community. The president of Russia has indicated the inadmissibility of this. So the punctiliousness of diplomatic reverence toward new partners and allies must not make Russia forget about its own interests.

The depressing nature of everyday life in Russia and the thoughtless denial of the whole legacy of the recent past have given Russians an inferiority complex, deprived the people of their dignity, and entailed numerous syndromes of guilt and inaction. The "Tbilisi syndrome" prevented us from dealing a rebuff to the bandits who seize our weapons dumps in Georgia, and the failure to establish a state of emergency in Groznyy paralyzed political will in a situation which created a pernicious precedent for Russia. If it were not for the "Afghan syndrome," the Russian border post in Tajikistan would not have been routed. Of course, we must not brush aside past mistakes, miscalculations, and failures, but neither must they act as eternal shackles. In politics in general and in national security strategy in particular it is sometimes useful to start with a clean sheet.

Let us pluck up courage and admit a bitter truth: The USSR lost the "cold war," and Russia, as the Union's legal heir, is willy-nilly forced to incur colossal international-political and financial-economic expenses. All this is undoubtedly weakening the country. The very severe sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and spiritual crises which have erupted in our country have brought it to the verge of collapse. Nevertheless, it remains not just a player in international relations but also one of the key guarantors of the "new world order."

It is a question not of the fact that Russia's interests run counter to the interests of some other country but, above all, of the fact that these interests really do exist and no one has the right to ignore them.

This is all the more true because in no other country has the problem of substituting "panhuman" interests for national interests been the subject of discussion even on a hypothetical plane. In conclusion I wish to emphasize once again that there is a strict sequence in the shaping of national security policy—stages in an unalterable order. In the matter of ensuring national security we have taken the perfectly correct strategic course of defending the individual's rights and freedoms and guaranteeing people's normal living conditions. Meanwhile, there is shooting in the streets of Russian cities today, pensioners are doomed to a beggarly existence, soldiers are disoriented by politicians, the ordinary Russian is without rights before the salesman and the official, and at any moment he can become the target of a mocking action like the present "monetary reform." But as soon as the Russian gets the feeling that the state is rigorously fulfilling the function of protecting his security, then, along with this, Russia's past might also will not be slow to be restored.

It has once again fallen to the lot of our generation to undergo severe trials. If we have sufficient endurance, we will return to the world community as a great power, but this time without the need to oppose the whole world—as partners and allies of civilized countries.

Parliament Proposes Change to Ministerial Appointments Law

LD1208133993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The Russian Parliament made on Thursday [12 August] an addendum to the law on the Russian Government. Submitting the law for consideration, Vladimir Isakov, unofficial leader of the opposition bloc, said that the role of lawmakers in appointing candidates to the posts of foreign affairs, defence, security and interior ministers should be greater than now.

Parliamentarians agreed that if these posts are vacated, the president is obliged to nominate other candidates for them.

If legislators find a candidate unworthy of occupying one of the key posts in the cabinet, the president is to nominate another candidate within a period set by the legislature. A candidate can be nominated for the same post no more than two times.

It is indicative that the bill does not set a deadline for ending the confirmation procedure of potential candidates. Confirmation can hypothetically be delayed for years.

Fearing probably such an absurd development of events, the authors of the addendum introduced a provision saying that "a deputy minister" will perform ministerial duties till the legislature approves the head of an appropriate ministry.

The bill adopted by parliament in the second reading was sent to the president for signature.

Parliament Approves Chernobyl Cleanup Operations List

LD1308095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—The Russian Parliament specified rules on Friday, defining the number of people who participated in the Chernobyl clean-up operations after the 1986 blast.

The legislature adopted a decision approving the list of operations to be regarded as clean-up operations as proposed by the government. These operations cover work done in the contaminated areas of the Russian Federation between April 26, 1986 and December 31, 1990.

The list of operations includes radiological examination of contaminated terrain, machinery, buildings, installations, premises, as well as loading and transportation of cargoes, livestock, agricultural products, equipment, transportation of people and their property, decontamination of buildings, installations, equipment, all types of transport, agricultural lands, terrain, special clothing and special footwear.

The government is instructed to supervise the issue of special identification cards to Chernobyl aid recipients in compliance with the approved list of jobs.

Regional Affairs

Officials Comment Before Heads of Republics Meeting

Khakasian Parliament Speaker Views Treaty

LD1108132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Danilenko]

[Text] Abakan August 11 TASS—"On the eve of the adoption of a new constitution of the Russian Federation we must adopt a law on the mechanism for implementing the federal treaty," Vladimir Shtygashev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Khakasia (a republic in Siberia), said today before flying to Petrozavodsk, where a meeting of the council of the heads of Russia's constituent republics is to take place shortly. "This will be one of the key items on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting," he told ITAR-TASS, "but several other problems linked with the country's dire economic situation, are not ruled out."

Representatives of the "Siberian Agreement" association are trying once again to address the Russian president from this rostrum with their own view on the solution of problems effecting a huge region of Russia.

Buryat Speaker Comments

LD1108141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude August 11 TASS—The assertions that Russia's new constitution is ready were made too often after the conclusion of the second stage of the constitutional conference. These assertions are premature. Leonid Potapov, speaker of the Buryatian parliament, said this in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS before taking the plane in the Ulan-Ude airport today to fly to Petrozavodsk for a meeting of heads of republics.

The head of the Buryatian parliament said that above all it is necessary to remove contradictions between articles in the future fundamental law and the Federal Treaty, to perfect the wording on the status of republics within the Russian Federation, on the status of territorial entities. He believes the final version of the new constitution should be initialled by all subjects of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin, Shakhray Comment

LD1308094793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin, addressing today's conference of the Council of Heads of Republics and leaders of regional associations in Petrozavodsk, expressed confidence that Russia will retain its integrity as a state. We have no right to destroy Russia, neither a moral, historical, nor juridical right—this is how RIA quotes Boris Yeltsin. The president emphasized the importance of drawing a clear dividing line between the remit of the central authorities and the remit of the federation's constituent parts.

He suggested that the draft of the fundamentals of the Russian Federation concerning implementation of the Federation Treaty should be completed and approved. The final text of the document must, without fail, govern the relations between the federal authorities and all constituent parts of the federation, the president stressed. According to RIA, Deputy Russian Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray suggested at the conference that a joint sitting of the constitutional conference and the constitutional commission should be held in September. The proposal was earlier agreed with the president of Russia.

Yeltsin To Visit Kizhi After Conference

LD1208132493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The participants in the meeting of council of heads of republics are arriving in Petrozavodsk. Our correspondent Yuliya Ivanova reports on the program of their stay in the capital of Karelia:

This afternoon the guests will visit two enterprises in Petrozavodsk—the Avangard works and the Petrozavodsk Bummash joint-stock company.

After their meeting, which will end tomorrow afternoon, the guests will visit Kizhi. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is expected to take part in the visit.

Leaders of the Karelian Republic hope that, despite a very busy schedule, the Russian president will sign a decree on increasing the economic independece of the Republic of Karelia, which has already been agreed in Moscow.

On the eve of the conference, Viktor Stepanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Karelia, said: I hope the conference will be successful and that we will be able to create the conditions needed to extricate ourselves from the crisis our society has been dragged into.

Yeltsin Arrives in Karelia, Previews Meeting

LD1208165093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1601 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrovna]

[Text] Petrozavodsk, 12 Aug—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Petrozavodsk today where he will take part in a session of the Council of Heads of Republics tomorrow. "It is necessary to come to an agreement with the heads of Russia's republics and also the chairmen of the eight territorial, regional, and interregional associations on certain formulas in the constitution which have not yet been agreed upon," Boris Yeltsin told journalists upon arrival at Petrozavodsk airport. "I hope very much that we will come to an agreement," he added.

Apart from this, according to him, the session will discuss the draft law on a mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray will deliver a report on this topic. "This is a very serious issue and will take up a lot of time," Boris Yeltsin said. The head of state thanked the leadership of the Republic of Karelia for their hospitality, noting that this is the first time that the heads of the republics are not meeting in Moscow. Asked a question about the legal basis of future elections to parliament, which he spoke about today at a meeting in Moscow, the president avoided a direct answer. "The whole issue comes down to how the constitution is adopted, how the elections are conducted, and which body should make the decision on the elections," Boris Yeltsin stated. "If I tell you this now, then there won't be anything left to do," he added.

Addresses Council of Heads of Republics

LD1308080993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] A meeting of the Council of Heads of Republics and leaders of regional associations opened in Ptrozavodsk today. Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, addressed the session and proposed that a council of the federation be formed as a legitimate body of power, RIA reports. Each of the 88 Russian regions could be represented within this body with two representatives each. Touching on the constitutional reform, Boris Yeltsin did not rule out a possibility that a constitutional law could be adopted for a transitional period. He noted that such a law could usher in the new elections, thus resolving the problem of diarchy.

Further on Address

LD1308083393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0726 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk August 13 TASS—Speaking at the opening of the Council of Heads of the Republics of the Russian Federation here today, President Yeltsin suggested the creation of a new authority—the Council of the Federation. It would include two representatives from each of the 88 members of the federation, all in all 176 representatives. "In my opinion, it will be a legitimate authority," the president said. He suggested to the participants in the session that the new authority be created by the presidential decree.

"The Council of the Federation could resolve many problems in a legitimate way, and no one would be able to say that some sort of a meeting is being held. It will not be a meeting, it will be an authority," he said.

The president mentioned in his report the work on a new constitution. Its adoption and the implementation of the Federal Treaty are inseparably connected with each other, he stressed. The draft constitution, worked out and approved by the Constitutional Conference, should now be discussed with elected bodies of state power and heads of executive authorities of all members of the federation. The Constitutional Conference is to meet in September, the president said. In his opinion, prospects of the adoption of the new constitution depend a great deal on the stand to be assumed by the Council of Heads of the Republics.

"It is quite possible that a constitutional law for the transitional period will be adopted. We could hold new elections with its help and settle in this way the problem of dual power before it brings the country to a standstill," the president pointed out.

Comments on Agenda

LD1308101493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk, 13 Aug—In his opening speech to the meeting of the council of heads of republics in Petrozavodsk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stressed that there are two issues on its agenda, the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty, and further steps to debate and adopt the constitution of the Russian Federation.

The president stressed that the process of implementing the Federation Treaty and the application of its principles in legislation and in the practical administration of the state, is not turning out to be easy. The conflict between decentralization and unitary political thinking is proving difficult to overcome. However, there is no longer a single responsible politician who would deny that this treaty is the cornerstone in the foundations of Russia's statehood, the president said.

The conclusion of the Federation Treaty was the first stage in constitutional reform and the transformation of our state into a genuine federation. After its adoption we are faced with at least four separate but linked tasks.

The first is to do a stocktaking of federal legislation and to remove any principles which are not relevant to the administration of a federation. The second is the transformation of laws which are relevant to shared jurisdiction into fundamental legislative principles. The third is the molding of full-fledged legislation at the level of components of the federation. The fourth is the preparation of specific agreements on mutual delegation of powers.

Basic responsibility for the implementation of the first two tasks has been placed on the federal bodies of authority, the president emphasized. At the same time, the initiative and responsibility for preparing and adopting legislation on the subject of authority in republics, krays, and oblasts, as well as specific agreements, rest with the components of the Federation themselves. Boris Yeltsin considers that this work is proceeding "very sluggishly." There are fewer than a dozen components of the Federation, chiefly republics, which are actively developing their own legislation, while the rest are doing this only slowly. This also applies to those krays and oblasts which are intending to change their status to that of republics.

Boris Yeltsin expressed the view that it is essential to use the mechanism for reconciling different interests and providing equal opportunities laid down in the Federation Treaty.

The Russian president said attempts to belittle the status of republics, which are described in the Federation Treaty as sovereign, reveal a lack of understanding of the real state of affairs. He emphasized, on the other hand, that it is often some action or utterance by the representatives of these republics which serve as an excuse to do this. "Once and for all we should make the following questions absolutely clear for ourselves and for the whole of society: First, there is no such thing as absolute sovereignty; the rights of any republic are restricted by the rights of other subjects of the Federation; second, the sovereignty of republics within the Russian Federation is restricted by the framework of preserving Russia as a whole and indivisible state," Boris Yeltsin said.

Revives Idea of Federation Council

LD1308100093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Report by special correspondent Yuliy Semenov from Petrazavodsk]

[Text] Hello. The session of the council of heads of republics, in which the leaders of Russia's regional associations took part under the chairmanship of President Boris Yeltsin, came to a close just a few minutes ago. Those participating in meeting have adopted a statement which is now being edited. We will of course give Mayak listeners more details about its contents as soon as it is shown to the journalists here.

Now I would like to talk about the main thing which happened at today's meeting. What I am talking about could be seen as a sensation of sorts which could have serious consequences for political life in Russia. What am I talking about?

Addressing the opening of the meeting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed a return to the idea raised at one of the Congresses of People's Deputies: the idea of establishing a Federation Council now, and not after elections take place, which would contain 176 people. That would mean two people from each component [subjekt] of the Federation, from each oblast, kray, and republic.

Moreover, he proposes setting up this body as a legitimate body formed from the bottom by the subjects of the Federation themselves to resolve the issues it is absolutely essential to resolve right now. It would not be a consultative body or one which met only periodically. The proposal is to set up what would effectively be a new legitimate body of authority in Russia where the components of the Federation could combine forces to resolve very important issues.

It was not stated openly, but everyone realized, of course, that this could become a lever to overcome the dual authority and opposition which exists between the Supreme Soviet leadership and the Federation's executive authorities.

I will speak more briefly about some other points. The basis for discussion was, of course, the document on the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty. Participants examined the draft basis for the relevant Russian Federation law. It is just a basis, as the legislative base could then be reinforced in several ways: there is a package of federal laws which are to be worked out and adopted to implement this Federation Treaty; a legislative base for republics, krays, and oblasts as components of the Federation will be formed and the division of powers between the center and the republics will be worked out.

What is particularly important is a properly regulated tax system, because this is what arouses the most passions and has led to aspirations for greater sovereignty.

Incidentally, the president's speech at this meeting today sounded to some extent like a warning addressed to certain republican leaders who have got rather carried away by the possibility of attaining some sort of absolute sovereignty which does not and cannot exist. Once more, it was stated very firmly that Russia can only be a single and undivided federative state.

It was also said at today's meeting that it is vital to speed up the constitutional process. A relatively new idea was expressed—new for this auditorium at least—that a joint session of the constitutional assembly and the Supreme Soviet's constitutional commission be held. Boris Yeltsin, who was previously not a supporter of this idea, has obviously reexamined his position in the current situation and has stated that he is now ready to summon such a joint session in September.

It was also agreed that the constitutional process should be forced as much as possible, that the period for discussion of the draft constitution in republics, krays, and oblasts should be end in about the middle of September, and that the plenary session of the constitutional assembly should then be held in September too.

Finally, one more observation from the accredited journalists here, which really comes in the name of those participating in the meeting. For the second day running, certain branches of the media are circulating totally incorrect reports that the leadership of North Ossetia and Ingushetia are not represented here. This is not the case, and Mayak and several other agencies and media reported yesterday that all the republics apart from Chechnya will be represented here, and today we can say that that is the case. So those people with inaccurate information should be more careful what they tell their listeners.

Delivers 'Opening Address'

LD1308130293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

['Opening address' by President Boris Yeltsin to the Council of Heads of Republics meeting held in Petrozavodsk on 13 August—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed members of the Council of Heads of Republics, esteemed leaders of regional and interregional associations. First and foremost, I wish to thank Viktor Nikolayevich [Stepanov—chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet] and our hospitable hosts for the opportunity to come to Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia.

There are two issues on the agenda of today's meeting: The mechanism for the implementation of the Federation Treaty and further steps to debate and adopt the constitution of the Russian Federation.

As you know, the process of implementing the Federation Treaty and the application of its principles in legislation and in the practical administration of the state is turning out not to be easy. The inertia of overcentralization and unitary political thinking is proving difficult to overcome. However, there is no longer a single responsible politician who would deny that this treaty is the cornerstone in the foundations of Russia's statehood.

The conclusion of the Federation Treaty was the first stage of constitutional reform and the transformation of our state into a genuine federation. Following its adoption at least four separate but linked tasks faced us: first, to take stock of federal legislation, removing principles that are not part of federal jurisdiction; second, transformation of laws that are relevant to shared jurisdiction into fundamental legislative principles; third, the moulding of fully fledged legislation at the level of component parts of the federation; fourth and finally, preparation of specific agreements on mutual delegation of powers.

The main responsibility for implementing the first two tasks was borne by the federal bodies of power. At the same time, the initiative and responsibility for preparation and adoption of the legislation concerning matters which fall under the competence of the republics, krays and oblasts, as well as concrete mutual agreements, lies on the subjects of the Federation themselves.

How well is this work progressing? I think it has been very slack so far. I could mention fewer than 10 subjects of the Federation, mainly republics, that have been actively developing their own legislation. The rest are hesitating, preferring not to take notice of the rights they have acquired through the Federation Treaty. This also concerns those krays and oblasts which intend to acquire the status of a republic. As far as I know, not a single fundamental legislative act has been adopted so far on the matters which fall under their competence. No initiatives on playing their part in financing the federal powers were forthcoming either.

At the same time, there are oblasts that are really working hard to upgrade their status. Thus, the Moscow oblast has drawn up its own legislation with regard to administration of its state and municipal property. A draft agreement on the special system for managing its own territory has been prepared in Kaliningrad oblast. I believe that the mechanisms for finding agreeable compromises between local interests and taking advantage of the the equal opportunities presented by the Federation Treaty should be used more actively.

The precise definition of powers to be enjoyed by the subjects of the federation and local governments will put an end to the departmental bureaucratic arbitrariness and the waste of natural resources. It will help to implement the principle of responsibility within the state administration.

The Federation Treaty calls the republics sovereign. Attempts to lower their status in any way at best indicate a lack of knowledge about the true situation.

On the other hand, let's admit that very often the reason for this is certain actions and pronouncements made by representatives of the republics themselves. I must say that we should fully elucidate the following questions for ourselves and for all society: first, there is no such thing as absolute sovereignty. The rights of any republic are restricted by the rights of other Federation components. Second, the sovereignty of republics in the Russian Federation is restricted by preserving Russia as an integral and indivisible state. Yes, it is true that we have to have a clear-cut division of powers between the center and federation components. The center must not interfere in matters which fall within the competence of republics, krays, oblasts, and okrugs. Yes, the question of the joint competence of federal bodies of power and Federation component bodies of power still remains a sore point. Due to their previous experience, federal bodies are still inclined to treat this sphere as something within their own exclusive competence. All this is true. But all these processes are taking place within the integral and indivisible state of Russia. We have absolutely no right to destroy it, neither a moral right, nor a historic right, nor a legal right. We owe this to the memory of previous generations and our future descendants, who are also studying in this house [Yeltsin is talking at Children and Young People's Arts and Crafts Center]. We have to recognize this and act accordingly [words indistinct]. After all, they are mainly based on suspicions that someone wants to secede from Russia.

I must say that if anyone in these republics, krays, oblasts and regions really has hopes of this, he is profoundly mistaken. No one will succeed in dissociating themselves from the processes currently taking place in Russia.

All the same, Russia will be preserved as an integral state, but this will happen either on the basis of a civilized constitutional process, taking a maximum account of the interests of the subjects of the Federation and of historic traditions, or on the basis of crude force and arbitrariness through a dictatorship. There is another problem. Of course, when carrying out economic reform, the specific nature of this or that subject of the Federation should be taken into account, but we should not forget that we all live in a single federative state.

It is extremely important for us in the very near future to solve and close the issue of transferring taxes to the federal budget. All the arguments of the supporters of the organization of Russia into provinces are, in fact, reduced to one thing alone: Tatarstan, Bashkortostan and Sakha-Yakutia do not transfer money to the federal budget. This problem must be solved. Believe me, it is not just my position, but also the position of your colleagues in the Council of the heads of the republics.

Esteemed colleagues! Today draft fundamentals of the Russian Federation legislation for implementing the Federation Treaty are submitted to us. It has been elaborated by a working group of the council of the heads of republics and we have taken long enough to arrive at it. I think that the adoption of the actual fundamentals of the legislation is a correct approach. On the one hand, it does not encroach on the sovereignty of republics and opens up scope for their own legislative work; on the other hand, it provides a possibility to elaborate specific directions for implementing the Federation Treaty within the federal legislation.

I know that work on the draft was not without problems, but overall the spirit of mutual understanding prevailed. I consider that the draft can be adopted as a basis. It includes points of the law on procedure for implementing the Federation Treaty, developed by the Soviet of Nationalities. All the same, it has to be said that the draft which has been presented certainly still needs to be perfected, and you will evidently express an opinion about it.

One more fundamental point: Work on the basis for the legislation of the Russian Federation for implementing the Federation Treaty must most definitely proceed with the participation of Federation components, krays, oblasts, and autonomies, as long as the draft regulates issues of implementing the Federation Treaty between the center and the republics. The final draft of the basis for the legislation of the Russian Federation for the implementation of the Federation Treaty absolutely must regulate relations between Federal bodies of power for all Federation components.

In this context I would also like to say that it is essential to think through a mechanism for organizational cooperation and coordination between leaders of republics and other components. Many problems in tackling federation structural problems in fact arise from the lack of a well thought through mechanism for dialogue between these two groups of leaders. The mechanical merger of the Council of Heads of Republics and the Administration Heads Council is probably not useful.

But there is another way. Why should we not in future increase the number of representatives from regional and interregional associations at our sittings? This will already be a fully functioning body. So all Federation components will be represented by one person from representative authority and one person from executive authority, two people from each Federation component, 176 people, the Federation council.

I would say that it will be a legitimate body, legitimate organ at the bottom, and incidentally you have written about this to the Congress, there are your signatures, and at that time I made a speech and agreed with this but the Congress did not agree.

Well, we could decide to renew these signatures now and to resolve this question by a presidential decree, thereby setting up a Federation Council. At the Federation Council we could resolve many questions in a legitimate way. Nobody could then complain that this was some kind of conference. This is no longer a conference. This is already a body of power. At our last sitting, as you will remember, we drew an important conclusion. The adoption of the new constitution and the implementation of the Federation Treaty are inseparably linked with each other. We have tried as much as possible to involve representatives of all components of the federation, as well as representatives of local self-government, political parties, public organizations, trade unions, and organizations of commodity producers and entrepreneurs in its drafting.

The work of the constitutional conference has fully confirmed that the implementation of state-wide constitutional reform in the Russian Federation is both timely and indispensable. The draft constitution drawn up and approved by the conference must now be agreed with representative bodies of state power and heads of executive power in all component parts of the federation. A plenary session of the constitutional conference is scheduled to take place in September [words indistinct] that is when we can take a decision on the draft constitution. The working commission on drafting of the constitution has been instructed to circulate all proposals and criticisms received from Supreme Soviets of republics, from oblast, kray, and okrug Soviets, from presidents and governments of republics, and heads of other organizations in the components of the federation. [recording ends abruptly and announcer says: We have been broadcasting a recording of the address by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin of Russia, received over the telephone from Petrozavodsk.]

Session Marks 'Turning Point'

LD1308122493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0849 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk, 13 Aug—Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, has described today's session of the council of heads of republics as a turning point.

As you know, the contradictory and difficult process of analyzing the nature of Russia's statehood and its internal structure has been under way recently, he stressed in a statement to journalists. The question of the relationship between the rights of republics, on the one hand, and those of oblasts and krays, on the other, has been a particularly awkward one. The krays and oblasts, Vyacheslav Kostikov continued, have expressed much criticism and dissatisfaction with the way the republics have been flexing their muscles as a counter-weight to the political rights of oblasts and krays.

In recent months, the press secretary continued, there has been a great deal of argument over the limits of sovereignty. Certain republican leaders, especially those of a nationalist inclination, have placed too broad an interpretation on the concept of sovereignty. They have even gone so far as to insert clauses in their constitutions on the possibility of secession from the Russian Federation. "I would describe such ambitions as a kind of geopolitical nonsense," the president's press secretary said. "Geopolitical holes" cannot be allowed to form in the fabric of Russia. "Russia is not a piece of Swiss cheese," Vyacheslav Kostikov said. "It is a single, monolithic state."

The press secretary believes that in this respect the speech Boris Yeltsin made today is "a mild, cautious, and the same time firm warning to supporters of so called 'unlimited sovereignty.'" The president's idea that "there is no such thing as absolute sovereignty" is a firm expression and confirmation that Russia should not be divided, the press secretary believes. This is a very important factor for stability and for reassuring the Russian population, which has recently been expressing some concern and even irritation about "the display of sovereignty" [parada suvereniterov] by the republics and oblasts.

In this respect, the notion expressed by Boris Yeltsin today about the necessity of returning to the idea of a federation council is a very constructive one, the press secretary said. This will be a body for coordinating the interests of republics, krays, and oblasts. Until recently, we had the situation when the republics existed on their own, in their own closed space, while the krays and oblasts had their own space. There were no effective bridges of mutual understanding between them. The idea of setting up a federation council was earlier submitted for the consideration of the Congress of People's Deputies but was rejected. But a council of federations will provide the opportunity to harmonize the interests of all components of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

The press secretary answered a question on the prospect of early parliamentary elections. He said that, judging from conversations in the lobby of the conference, there appears to be support for this idea. "This is now a pressing issue, because the political crisis should be resolved as soon as possible."

Meeting Seen as Inconclusive

MK1308091593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin report under "Russian Federation" rubric: "President and Heads of Republics Meet in Petrozavodsk—A Draw Amid the Karelian Scenery?"]

[Text] The leaders of former autonomies who arrived in Petrozavodsk for a meeting of the Council of Heads of Republics were warned that owing to the Russian president's state of health, the session would last an hour and 25 minutes. Therefore, of the two days in Petrozavodsk, 85 minutes would be devoted to the Council's work proper and the rest of the time to a trip to Kizhi, fishing, and so forth. This rigid timetable was proposed also with another aim—to save the president from reproaches by provincial leaders. And in order to support Yeltsin, eight leaders of interregional associations were invited to Petrozavodsk. The topics of this consultative body's sessions are traditional—implementation of the Federation Treaty and the draft new constitution of the Russian Federation. Obviously, while Yeltsin's main aim is to obtain approval for "his" constitution, for the republics it is to finally taste the fruits of the Federation Treaty, which have been anticipated for a year and a half now. Only the first part of the council's agenda was a subject of discussion by the working group of this consultative body. The experts discussed two draft laws. The first was prepared by representatives of former autonomies and is entitled: "The Law of the Russian Federation on Implementation of the Federation Treaty." The second appeared thanks to the efforts of the State Committee for Nationalities headed by Sergey Shakhray and is called: "The Foundations of Legislation of the Russian Federation on Implementation of the Federation Treaty." There is also a third draft law - by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Council of Nationalities—"On Mechanisms for Implementing the Federation Treaty." The draft law by the State Committee on Nationalities drew objections from the experts of former autonomies as it equalizes the status of republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomies. This draft, in the experts' opinion, tries to merge three existing agreements. The second objection concerns the title: the distance between legislative principles and concrete legislative acts is well-known. Therefore, the working group will propose to the Council of Heads of Republics only its own draft. It is noteworthy that during the experts' conference, Oleg Tarasov, a representative of the Russian Federation president's apparatus, three times proposed to the republics' representatives that the Federation Treaty be revised since it is "out of date;" this was "rejected with indignation." Boris Yeltsin can hardly be expected to use this method of pressure, but this attempt could be seen as reconnaissance in combat. The mood of the majority of the republics is reflected in a draft statement by Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet Chairman Murtaza Rakhimov on behalf of his colleagues on the Council. It recalls that at the first session of the constitutional conference, Boris Yeltsin spoke about the inadmissibility of revising the

Federation Treaty. Rakhimov regrets the fact that the draft constitution "does not take into account this wish of the Russian Federation president and in its first section openly demonstrates its disrespect for the Federation Treaty and ignores many of the fundamental propositions contained in the new republics' constitutions." According to the Bashkir leader, "the new draft Fundamental Law is essentially aimed against the level of state- legal development reached by the republics." Murtaza Rakhimov believes that the constitutional conference called into question the very idea of fundamentally new treaty-based federative relations in Russia, and in fact took a course toward establishing a unitary state. He stressed that he has come up against "an unveiled intention to breach the earlier-achieved and formalized agreements." According to the Bashkir chairman, the Federation Treaty has failed to become the foundation for working out a new Russian Federation constitution. Second, this draft undoes the republics' declarations on state sovereignty. Third, it only formally records the republics' state sovereignty, leaving them merely a flag, an emblem, and an anthem. Fourth, the draft constitution does not reflect the status achieved by Tatarstan and Bashkortostan.

The Council of Heads of Republics can hardly be expected, however, to produce any results either for the president or for the leaders of the former autonomies—the four previous sessions all ended in a tie score: zero to zero. Perhaps the main outcome of the future session will be a joint vacation by the president and the republics' leaders amidst the Karelian scenery.

Filatov Ends Visit to Stavropol, Comments

LD1208201193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Zheleznovodsk (Stavropol Territory) August 12 TASS—Head of the Russian president's administration, Sergey Filatov, supported Boris Yeltsin's viewpoint that September would become a decisive month in the determination of the future state system of Russia. Sergey Filatov was speaking at a news conference in Zheleznovodsk after ending his trip to the Stavropol territory. Specifically he familiarized himself with the program of the development of health resorts in the Kavkazskiye Mineralnye Vody region calculated up to the year of 2000.

Touching on the forthcoming Constitutional Assembly, Sergey Filatov said that it is absurd to hint that attempts are planned to adopt a new constitution by an unconstitutional way at the Assembly. "I am among those who are planning a process of work on the Constitution, and from the very beginning we orientated ourselves towards the president's guidelines so as to make standpoints of subjects of the Federation the cornerstone of the new constitution," Sergey Filatov noted.

The head of the Russian president's administration believes that executive structures of power in all regions and all subjects of the Federation are actively participating in the constitutional process. As far as the representative power is concerned, it looks as if this power "has divided into three groups: the first one treats the constitutional process in a very constructive way, the second group is obstructing the adoption of the new constitution, and the third group is taking a wait-and-see attitude orientating itself towards the political situation", Sergey Filatov pointed out.

The head of the president's administration accused of opposing the adoption of the new constitution not so much the deputy's corps as the leaders of the Supreme Soviet, specifically its chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, who "do not need the new constitution as the one now in force suits them well giving them the possibility to act autocratically and without control."

Stavropol Region Deputies Score Leadership Policies

PM1208140593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Stavropol Region: Draft Unacceptable"]

[Text] The idea of the primacy of urgent socioeconomic questions over constitutional questions dominated the speeches of deputies of all levels at a conference in the Stavropol region. This idea also determined their attitude toward the draft Constitution sent by the president: "Participants in the conference declare that presidential and government structures, in an attempt to divert the attention of Russians from failures in the economic, political, and social spheres and to heap the blame for this on the soviets of people's deputies and rid themselves of the monitoring of their activities by the supreme representative organ of power, have imposed on the people a constitutional marathon that is designed to enshrine retrospectively the de facto change of the state and social system.... We declare our resolute support for the efforts of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to channel constitutional reform down a constitutional path."

Rutskoy: President, Government 'Have Betrayed' Russia

PM1308111393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Grachev report: "'I Am Motivated by Anguish for Russia'—Aleksandr Rutskoy Stated in Bryansk Oblast"]

[Text] Bryansk—People in Bryansk Oblast are basically patriots, and the collectives visited by the vice president greeted him with warmth and trust. Explaining his effective removal from duties, Aleksandr Vladimirovich put it as follows: "Yeltsin has violated the Russian

Constitution by this decision since I, like the president, was elected by the majority of the people, and I can only be dismissed by the voters."

The aim of Rutskoy's tour of the central oblasts was, according to him, as follows: to study public opinion and to devise in the light of it a nationwide program of reforms which, unlike the presidential-governmental program, won't worsen Russian people's lives but will regenerate the economy and free it from U.S. and Western diktat and restore to the Russians their almost lost culture, morality, and sense of their own dignity, patriotism, and true democracy so that Russians may live with their heads held high.

Aleksandr Vladimirovich met with the workers of the Dyatkovo Crystal Plant and the Bryansk Machine Building Plant, oblast people's deputies, inhabitants of rayons affected by the accident at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station], airmen from Seshcha, and other collectives. And when the vice president said that the president and government must immediately resign before they betrayed the whole of Russia, turned a former great power into a raw-materials appendage, and stirred up a civil war, the reaction was one of applause. The levelheadedness of Aleksandr Vladimirovich's judgments and his courage and frankness found support. Asked what motivated him, he replied: "Civic conscience and anguish for Russia."

Although the so-called democrats and thir press have tried to present the vice president in an unseemly light, in some "self-appointed" role, they have not succeeded. Aleksandr Vladimirovich has seen off his opponents good and proper.

His coming filled the inhabitants of Bryansk Oblast with optimism and hope for an improvement in the present very difficult lives which the Russian president and his entourage have brought upon the Russians.

Deputies View Status of Constitutional Process

PM1208150593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Nizhniy Novgorod: Amendments Package"]

[Text] A session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies inner soviet has been held here. A decision was adopted: to approve the actions of the Constitutional Conference in preparing the draft Constitution and submitting it to the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation components; to ratify proposals concerning the draft; to send the present decision to the Supreme Soviet and Russian Federation components, and also to the coordinators of the Constitutional Conference; and that members of the Constitutional Commission from Nizhniy Novgorod are to continue their participation in the work to prepare the draft Fundamental Law.

North Ossetia, Ingushetia Conflict Zone Unchanged

LD1208151593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 12 TASS—The situation in the restricted zone under the regime of a state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia has not essentially changed in the last twenty-four hours.

Reports by military sources received by the Security Council of North Ossetia today, confirm that neither exchanges of fire nor armed conflicts on ethnic grounds have been registered in the republic.

According to military estimates, the crime situation in the region remains complex. Twenty-one crimes of different degrees of gravity were committed in the last twenty-four hours.

On the agreement with the Ossetian and Ingush sides the temporary administration has determined a security zone, 2-3 kilometers wide, between the two republics. The security zone is being controlled by Russian peacekeeping forces and units of the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation. This has been done to ensure security of the civilian population and put a stop to attempts of bandit groups and terrorists to penetrate into the zone under the regime of a state of emergency.

In accordance with the agreement with military commandants of areas, units of the local law-enforcement bodies also participate in taking operative measures. A planned replacement of units of peacekeeping forces has been accomplished in the zone under the regime of a state of emergency in North Ossetia.

Ingush President Rejects 'Reservation' Settlements

PM1308115393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 5

[Irina Dementyeva report on telephone interview with Ingush Republic President Ruslan Aushev in Nazran on 11 August; published under the general heading "Ingush and Ossetians Still Living a Shot's Distance Apart"]

[Text] Nazran—Yesterday evening I telephoned Ingush Republic President Ruslan Aushev and put the same question to him: In his interview with IZVESTIYA, Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, again offered the Ingush a chance to settle in the settlement of Mayskoye, which can be enlarged and which is surrounded by excellent land.

The general was, as always, blunt in his replies.

[Aushev] But nobody actually moved anywhere from Mayskoye, so who should be sent back there? How and why should this developed settlement be enlarged if refugees are to have their own homes and plots? Why must they live 15 km from it and wait for a second return? Our population unequivocally calls this project a reservation.

[Dementyeva] Ruslan Sultanovich, a curfew has been introduced in Chermen. What is your attitude toward that? Published material suggests that the Ingush side is consistently insisting on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region.

[Aushev] I insisted on that only in November, when, taking advantage of the situation in the conflict area, Russian troops passed through our territory to the very border with Chechnya, but now we have nothing against the Russian Army, especially if it is stepping up its peacekeeping efforts.

Destruction of Kama Region ICBM Silos Under Way

PM1208152393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Lebedinskiy report from "Brief and to the Point" column: "Missiles Will No Longer Take Off"]

[Text] Powerful explosions, which scattered reinforced concrete over a half-kilometer area, were heard near the settlement of Bershet, previously known as Perm-76. Fulfilling the conditions of the START I Treaty, the missilemen destroyed one after another three silos which until quite recently concealed UR-100K ICBM's targeted on likely adversaries. According to Major General Yu. Kirillov, division commander, not a single missile silo will remain in the Kama River region [Prikamye] in two years.

Novosibirsk Fails To Receive Funds Promised by Moscow

PM1108151393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report under "News Service Working" rubric: "The Government Deceives"]

[Text] According to Viktor Tolokonskiy, head of Novosibirsk Oblast Economy and Resources Department, "the Russian Government has deceived Novosibirsk City Hall by failing to transfer the 500 million rubles [R] promised for the city's centennial."

"The government instructed the Ministry of Finance to allocate this money to the city hall by 1 July 1993 to celebrate the centennial and also recommended allocating R15 billion to support the social sphere, transportation, and heat and power engineering," he declared in Novosibirsk. According to Tolokonskiy, the Ministry of Finance has responded to Novosibirsk City Hall's request by saying that "concern must be shown for money by the person who promised it."

Tatar Leader on Relations With Moscow

PM1208132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Dmitriy Mikhaylin transcription of statement by Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev under the "Standpoint" rubric: "Vasiliy Likhachev: 'If Policy Is Confined to Kremlin Walls, They Will Come Tumbling Down'"]

[Text] Kazan—As ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA predicted, the date when the bilateral Treaty Between Russia and Tatarstan will be ready has yet again been postponed indefinitely.

I will remind you that the leaders of the working groups preparing the draft—Russian Government Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray and Tatarstan Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev—received instructions from Presidents Yeltsin and Shaymiyev to present an agreed version of the draft by 30 July. The Tatarstan vice president discusses why this did not happen, and also Tatarstan's current stance and future prospects for the development of relations between the Federation and the republic.

[Likhachev] Today we are at a crucial, I would even say critical, moment not only in Russia's relations with Tatarstan but for Russia as a whole. Analyzing information from Moscow, I come to the conclusion that the political crisis in the federal leadership is intensifying.

Attempts by both the executive and the legislature to create economic, political, and financial stability are coming up against a lack of understanding from their opponents and a lack of coordinated action. Naturally, against this background it was extremely difficult to put an agreed version of the Treaty on Mutual Delegation of Powers and Areas of Responsibility on the desks of Presidents Yeltsin and Shaymiyev 30 July.

Nevertheless, at the meeting with Sergey Shakhray at the end of of July, we decided to continue work on the draft but to change somewhat the tactics for this work. The point is that at earlier stages of the work, we came to the conclusion that it would be wiser first to sign economic agreements between Russia and Tatarstan. As of now seven of them have been signed, and five are in the pipeline. But the signed agreements provoked a lot of criticism in Russia's state structures, and also from several Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet deputies.

Therefore it seems to me that meetings should take place between the Russian and Tatar prime ministers, if not in the very near future, then in the foreseeable future. At the first meeting conceptual questions about relations between Russia and Tatarstan should be discussed, and at the second the remaining unsigned agreements, and, what is even more important, the implementation of those already signed should be discussed. In general the future development of our relations should reach the level of implementing specific intergovernmental agreements.

Apart from this, I consider that as the federal organs of power have gone down the road of reforming relations with Tatarstan —and I have every reason to suppose that they have indeed gone down this road—as specific protocols, obligations, communiques exist, that is, documents which have at least a moral and political significance, they should respond to the legislative initiative of the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet on enshrining in the Russian Constitution a provision on treaty and constitutional relations between the Republic of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation in order to emphasize the legal nature of our dialogue. Here silence will resolve nothing.

Intelligent leaders should not walk away from problems but find ways of resolving them, ways of reforming Russia. Especially as everybody now understands that Russia cannot be preserved as a unitary state and that the regions have sensed their intellectual and economic power. If policy, including national-state policy, is confined within the Moscow Kremlin walls, they may come tumbling down one day.

In general the far from rhetorical question arises: What on earth is happening? Is it that the present generation of administrators and deputies is incapable of grasping the new approaches to mutual relations between the center and the regions, or are they consciously trying to return to a unitary model of the state with distribution of resources on a piece by piece basis, etc?

We have always openly asserted—backing up what we say with arguments—and are continuing to assert that objectively speaking Tatarstan is playing a progressive role in Russia's emergence and renewal. At the same time we are not taking credit for the idea of a constitutional-treaty Federation which we are now trying to put into practice.

After all, Bashkortostan, by concluding a separate agreement after the Federation Treaty was signed, actually began to exist on a constitutional-treaty basis. This idea received a fillip when the Federation Treaty was prepared and signed in Moscow and included in the new Constitution. This shows that Russia is already a constitutional-treaty state.

Set against the fact that Tatarstan is only attempting to regulate and develop what is already in existence, the pronouncements that we are destroying Russia seem absurd. Yes, we did make the regions think about their future fate, however immodest this may sound. Yes, our delegation did work at the Constitutional Conference, and it was on its initiative that the draft Constitution included paragraphs which simply had to be there: for example, those on the equal rights of peoples and nations' right to self-determination.

It was on our initiative and with the help of representatives of other regions that a note appeared in Article 10 stating that bilateral treaties on the demarcation of powers and the Federation Treaty carry equal weight, and Article 86 appeared, which mentions the need to take into consideration the status of the various Federation components by concluding bilateral treaties with them. All this permits us to say that the concept of Russia's federal system has been greatly developed in the draft of the new Constitution.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that the decision for Tatarstan's delegation to withdraw from the Constitutional Conference was a correct one. Inasmuch as this was a signal for its remaining participants to consider whether everything in the draft was right and whether it was not necessary to add something to it. Many of the paragraphs which I have listed actually appeared after the Tatarstan president's and speaker's statements on this subject.

The draft Constitution is now ready. Discussions of it have begun in the oblasts, krays, and republics. What will happen next?

It seems to me that after discussion of the draft Constitution at local level, a large-scale discussion should take place on this subject in and among the regions. For example, large-scale "roundtables" or conferences should take place on the topic of the Constitution in the Volga region, in the Ural region, in the West Siberian region, etc. so that the vision for Russia's future development comes from below and is based on the will of components which are united by common interests and which have interests exclusively of their own. This does not mean that I am calling on people to reject the center. No normal state can exist without a strong and intelligent center. But the link between the federal authorities and the regions should be exclusively bilateral.

Incidentally, at the moment Tatarstan is receiving many proposals to create a mechanism for such a "roundtable." We may be pioneers in this matter.

Mari El Abolishes Press Ministry

PM1308103993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Oleg Bedula report: "Ministry of Press and Information Abolished in Republic of Mari El"]

[Text] In the interests of improving the national economy's administrative structures and reducing administrative personnel, the Republic of Mari El Ministry of Press and Information has been abolished by an edict of the republic president, Vladislav Zotin.

Coordination of questions concerning the activities of the mass media and printers activities has been entrusted to the counselor for the press and information, a post is envisaged in the staff of the service of the state secretary of the presidential administration.

One-Day 'Warning Strike' Held in Maritime Kray

PM1208160393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Aug 93

[By M. Voznesenskiy and V. Domovidov from Vladivostok; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Voznesenskiy over video of Vladivostok port] The Maritime Kray Federation of Independent Trade Unions has carried out a longstanding threat and called a one-day warning strike. Up to half a million people took part in it. Work ground to a halt at 350 enterprises of the timber and mining industries and in seaports. Miners carried on working so as not to exacerbate the situation in the kray's power industry.

The strikers' demands remain the same. They want the establishment of state control over prices for energy resources—the cost of one kilowatt-hour in industry has soared to an astronomical 100 rubles. They also demand a sharp reduction in the taxes imposed on enterprises, and the right to handle export-import returns and dues themselves.

The strike mood is being affected by two factors. It is inflamed by the expected visit of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the middle of August, and cooled by the approaching Typhoon Robyn. As a result of this, even without the kray authorities' admonitions, all the vital services did not even consider joining the strike. You do not mess with a typhoon.

International Affairs

Russia's Dubinin Expected in Kiev, To Discuss Upcoming Summit

LD1208200793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1917 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev— A UNIAN correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that a visit by Yuriy Dubinin, ambassador at large under the president of the Russian Federation, is expected on 13 August. He headed a group of Russian experts at the previous talks between Russia and Ukraine on the issues of the division of property, the Black Sea Fleet, and so on. Then, in the opinion of Ukraine, the resolution of issues was blocked by Russia. It is expected that the talks will continue in Kiev with the aim of preparing for the meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk. The Ukrainian delegation, according to preliminary information, will be headed by Andriy Ozadovskyy, ambassador at large under the president of Ukraine.

Crimean Corporation To Build Bridge to Russia

AU1208125793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "A Bridge Between the Crimea and Russia"]

[Text] There has long been talk in the Crimea of building a bridge across the Kerch Strait that would connect the sunlit peninsula with Russia. This question was repeatedly raised at numerous rallies and also at the Crimean Supreme Council sessions. As stated by the president of the Crimean corporation "Zvezda" [Star], the elaboration of the project has been completed.

In accordance with the project, a two-story structure, 5,762 meters in length and 660 meters above sea level will be built. It will have two railroad tracks on the lower level and a four-lane highway on the upper. The cost of the construction and assembly work is estimated at $400 million.

German Defense Minister To Visit, Sign Agreement

LD1208120293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry press service reports that German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe will make an official visit to Kiev on 16 August. He will meet heads of our state and its armed forces. The high-ranking guest will visit several military units near the capital during his three-day stay in Ukraine. It is expected that an agreement will be signed between both states' defense ministries on cooperation in the military sphere and on conditions of mutual provision for official and working visits. Kostyantyn Morozov and Volker Ruehe will hold a joint news conference.

Morozov Gives News Conference on U.S. Visit

AU1208112993 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 10 Aug 93 p 6

[Unattributed report: "As the Minister of Defense Said...."]

[Text] For five days, Ukraine's minister of defense, Colonel General K. Morozov, was on an official visit in the United States. During his visit, a Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation in the Sphere of Defense Between the Defense Ministries of Ukraine and the United States was signed. K. Morozov held negotiations in the State Department, with U.S. Vice President Gore, with National Security Adviser Lake, with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Powell, and had meetings with a number of influential senators. The Ukrainian delegation familiarized itself with the functions of the National Command Center of the U.S. Armed Forces, took part in the presentation of the joint Ukrainian-American enterprise for reprocessing outdated (non-nuclear) munitions, met with American officers of Ukrainian origin, and also visited the Joint Command of the NATO Naval Forces in the Atlantic. In addition to this, our minister personally piloted an F-18 fighter from an air base to an aircraft carrier.

At a news conference in Kiev, following his return from the United States, K. Morozov stated that....

—From the beginning of August, groups of experts of the Ukrainian and U.S. military departments are working in both capitals in order to elaborate the optimal trends for reforming and developing Ukraine's Armed Forces, in particular, with regard to the organization of professional service;

—From now on, Ukraine and the United States are partners in the sphere of defense and military cooperation:

—The creation in Ukraine of a Center for Scientific Strategic Studies staffed by U.S. representatives and Ukrainian scientists is envisaged;

—A similar agreement (Memorandum) with the Russian Ministry of Defense could not, so far, be concluded due to the still unresolved questions regarding strategic nuclear weapons and the division of the Black Sea Fleet. However, corresponding work aimed at bringing the sides closer together is under way;

—The dismantling of combat missile complexes has started in Ukraine. It is expected that, by the end of September, 10 missiles and 60 warheads will be removed and stored on the territory of Ukraine as our state's property. Specialists of the 43d Rocket Army are conducting this work. They are also guarding them, jointly with subdivisions of Ukraine's Armed Forces. It is envisaged that the missile fuel will be processed in Ukraine;

—The threat to Ukraine's security arises in those cases when territorial claims are made upon it and a policy of pressure and blackmail is pursued. We make every effort to achieve mutual understanding with all of our neighbors, first and foremost, with Russia;

—There will be no military parade on Ukrainian Independence Day. This enjoyment is too expensive. However, units of Ukraine's Armed Forces are ready to demonstrate their drill proficiency if the supreme organs of state administration decide so.

Historian Calls For Foreign Support in Nuclear Disarmament

AU1308101493 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 13 Aug 93 p 2

[Article by Andrey Kudrayachenko, historian at the Institute for World Economy and International Relations at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences: "How Ukraine Will be Delivered From Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] Kiev's basic view has not changed: Ukraine is to become a state without nuclear weapons. Yet what precludes the realization of this desire? As far as the quantity of nuclear weapons that Kiev has inherited from the former Soviet Union is concerned, Ukraine is the third-strongest nuclear power in the world after the United States and Russia. The heritage includes 176 strategic missiles with 1,804 nuclear warheads and nearly 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt that Ukraine does not have complete control over the problems that are linked with this comprehensive arsenal. The West, however, has so far not shown sufficient understanding for these difficulties and has not been willing to really support Ukraine in the elimination of this problem.

Kiev, in turn, is being accused that it has not yet ratified the START I Treaty, that it has declared the nuclear weapons that it inherited from the USSR to be its property, and that it has not yet taken practical steps to destroy the nuclear arsenal.

As a matter of fact, however, Ukraine handed its approximately 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons over to Russia last year. This year, 10 carrier systems—without nuclear warheads—have been transferred to Russia. In July, Kiev also announced that it will scrap the first SS-19 missiles.

However, the complete removal of the Ukrainian nuclear weapons poses domestic and foreign policy, economic, financial, technical, and organizational problems. Thus, a total of 20 parties, none of which represents more than 10 percent of the voters, according to a poll, are currently determining Ukrainian policies. The Supreme Council (parliament) was elected when the Communist Party was still in power, and it has not adopted any decision, to this day, that would initiate fundamental social reforms.

External factors add to insecurity among the Ukrainian population: The armed hostilities in the neighboring Republic of Moldova, the dispute with Russia over the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimean peninsula, and the decision of the Moscow parliament to declare the port town of Sevastopol as Russian territory.

Ukraine is still lacking a guarantee of its security and territorial integrity by strong states. This must be seen against the background of the bloody conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and in the trans-Caucasus republics, and the fact must not be ignored that Ukraine does not stand any chances at the moment of becoming integrated into West European structures.

What prerequisites would be needed for Ukraine to renounce its nuclear weapons? Top priority is certainly to be given to a security guarantee and to guarantees for its territorial integrity. The security interests in this part of Europe are certainly similar to the ones in Central Europe. Moreover, it would be important for the West to endorse new forces and to support Ukraine economically. This help cannot only come from the United States and Russia but from Western Europe, too. The destruction of nuclear weapons entails enormous costs, and the financial funds promised by the United States, so far, are, by far, insufficient for nuclear disarmament. Experts from the United States and from Russia, too, could provide technical aid and help control nuclear disarmament. By the way, utmost priority should be given to the need to establish a partnership on the basis of equal rights with Russia.

Support for Ukraine from outside would enable the country to prevent the next parliament from adopting a decision on the nuclear weapons. I am convinced that adequate Western aid would strengthen the forces in Ukraine that are willing to deliver our country from nuclear weapons.

Cabinet Issues Decree on External Economic Activity

AU1208125393 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 10 Aug 93 p 1

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers' Decree No. 609 on Certain Measures for Regulating External Economic Activity" issued in Kiev on 9 August]

[Text] In view of the growing indebtedness of Ukrainian enterprises and the decreasing ruble supply for needs of importing goods, mainly energy sources, from Russia, and for the purpose of establishing an economically substantiated exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets with regard to foreign currencies and creating conditions enabling equal access by subjects of economic activity to the currency market, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

1. To determine that shipments of products to CIS countries must be authorized on the basis of a certificate from the relevant bank issued during the receipt by the exporter of the preceding payment, irrevocable letter of credit, or a guarantee of the foreign bank on the payment for the product within a time period established by the current legislation. All of these documents must be certified by an authorized Ukrainian bank.

2. The State Customs Committee must stop, starting from 20 August 1993, all customs clearance of cargo unless the dispatcher produces the documents listed in item 1 of the present decree.

The chairman of the State Customs Committee will be personally responsible for fulfilling the requirements specified in the present decree.

3. To recommend that the National Bank familiarize representatives of banks with the enactments of the present decree.

[Signed] L. Kuchma, Ukrainian Prime Minister
V. Nesmikh, first deputy minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

Issues Decree on Taxes

AU1308085893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 93 p 2

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Decree No. 608 on Introducing Additional Abatements of Taxes Levied on the Export of Goods (Work, Services)" issued in Kiev on 9 August]

[Text] In order to boost exports of products with the payment in foreign currency and to regulate the balance of payments, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

To exempt from the value added tax and excise duty those goods (work, services) that go for export with the payment in the currencies of CIS countries.

[Signed] L. Kuchma, Ukraine's prime minister
V. Nesmikh, first deputy minister at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

Border Troops Report Increase in Arms Smuggling

AU1208104193 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Statement by Petro Medvid, head of the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops; place and date not given: "The Flow of Weapons Is Growing"]

[Text] The situation in the area of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border remains complex. This is due to an increase in crime involving weapons that smugglers are trying to bring into Ukraine from adjacent border regions. Last month alone, border guards confiscated 155 units of miscellaneous weapons, including four antitank grenade launchers (RPG-26), hundreds of units of munition, and almost 220 kilograms of narcotic raw materials.

The number of attempts to illegally cross Ukraine's state border also increased. Last month the border guards detained 887 offenders.

The Border Troops, with assistance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and customs officers, returned to the Ukrainian state contraband goods worth a total of 2.176 billion karbovantsi, which is almost four times as much as during the preceding month.

The border guards thwarted numerous attempts at removing from Ukraine materials forbidden for export, valuable raw materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs that are in short supply, hundreds of tonnes of sugar, medicines, and diesel fuel.

As before, the largest numbers of violations were recorded at stretches of the Slovak, Polish, and Russian borders. Almost 80 percent of offenders are illegal migrants from southeastern Asia and the Near and Middle East. However, whereas their actions were not always well coordinated before, one now has the feeling that the tactic of illegal migration across Ukrainian territory is becoming increasingly organized and bold in character.

Foreign Ministry Discusses Ties With Estonians

WS1208130893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The information service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced today that responsible representatives of the ministry held consultations in Kiev with a delegation of the Estonian Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, the issue of the legal aspect of relations between the two countries was discussed. In particular, attention was focused on the draft agreement on preventing double citizenship, diplomatic relations, and problems connected with the opening of embassies of the two countries. Both sides agreed to continue the consultations in Tallinn.

Ship Detained in Turkey on Smuggling Charges

AU1208182193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Captain of a Crimean Vessel Stands Trial in Turkey"]

[Text] According to the newspaper TAVRICHESKIYE VEDOMOSTI [Tauria Gazette], Academician Kovalevskiy, flagship of the Sevastopol Southern Seas Institute, has been detained in Istanbul. Turkish customs officers had discovered large quantities of nonferrous metals in the ship's holds.

The crew took to commerce during cruises taking Crimean tourists to the Istanbul flea market. When Academician Kovalevskiy sails for Turkish shores, it has officials of Crimean state institutions on board who accompany stolen nonferrous metals. It is interesting that the Turkish customs officers found the contraband, whereas the Crimean customs had failed to do so. In a few days, the captain of the Crimean vessel will appear before the Turkish court.

National Affairs

Official Denies Referendum Canceled

WS1308083693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Interview with Valentyn Kernenko, head of the Central Committee for Execution of All-Ukrainian Referendum by an unidentified radio correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Valentyn Ivanovich, after the Central Electoral Commission publicized its decision to halt resolutions on the referendum, citizens from different parts of Ukraine began asking the following question: Does this mean the Central Electoral Commission is completing its activities and the referendum will not be held on 26 September 1993?

[Kernenko] Actually, the Commission received many telephone calls, telegrams, and letters asking the same question. I am unequivocally stating that no one reshaped the 26 August referendum and there are no grounds to believe that it will not be held. As reported recently by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet press center, the issue is different. Local councils, executive bodies, public organizations, and individual citizens began questioning the expediency of the referendum in the wake of 17 June 1993 Supreme Soviet resolution. On 14 July, the Supreme Soviet ordered all permanent commissions to review the issue and present its proposals. The Supreme Soviet Presidium weighed the proposals and decided to hold the seventh session of the Supreme Soviet at the end of August. Among others, the issue of the all-Ukrainian referendum of no-confidence in Ukrainian president and Supreme Soviet will be discussed. The issue is not whether the referendum will be changed or canceled because such decisions can only be made by the Supreme Soviet. One must not reach premature conclusions. [passage omitted]

The Central Commission suspended its 29 July resolutions on preparing and holding the referendum until the seventh session of the Supreme Soviet. After adoption of appropriate resolution by the Supreme Soviet, central, oblast, and district commissions will take measures to hold the referendum.

Rukh Official Comments

MK1208092593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Aleksandr Lavrinovich, acting chairman of the Ukrainian Central Electoral Board and Rukh deputy chairman, by Vladimir Skachko, under "Ukraine" rubric: "Ukrainian Authorities Afraid of Being Ousted; There Will Be No Ukraine-wide Referendum on Confidence (No-Confidence) in Parliament or President"; place and date not given]

[Text] At the end of last week, the Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium passed a decision to review the question about the expediency of holding a Ukraine-wide referendum on confidence in the Supreme Soviet and the president on 26 September 1993. Aleksandr Lavrinovich, acting chairman of the Ukrainian Central Electoral Board, has agreed to comment on this decision for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

[Skachko] How is your commission acting in this situation?

[Lavrinovich] The Supreme Soviet has decided to reconsider the question, as its resolution says; and in this situation, the Central Electoral Board has become hostage to the 17 July parliamentary decree whereupon, under the law on all-Ukrainian and local referendums, the Supreme Council must adopt another two acts. But it did not, and as has now become clear, it will not. A parliamentary session will take place during the third week of August, while the deadline for organizing the referendum expired on the morning of 9 August. Therefore, we shall have to suspend the documents' stipulation to make preparations for it. Today it is possible to say with absolute accuracy that there will be no referendum in Ukraine on 26 September 1993.

[Skachko] What has the Supreme Council failed to do so that your board could begin preparations for the referendum?

[Lavrinovich] The Supreme Council should have approved the text and form of the ballot paper for the referendum, and the parliament presidium should have made a decision on financing the campaign. These two documents do not exist, and the Central Electoral Board has no legal right to continue the campaign to organize a referendum.

[Skachko] As is known, there has been no special presidium session where members could at least state their arguments in favor or against; the decision was taken by individually polling presidium members behind the scenes, to a certain extent. Who do you think is behind the referendum's opponents?

[Lavrinovich] It is difficult to name any names just now. The presidium members voted against the referendum by an overwhelming majority. Therefore those who on 17 July voted for the referendum have today revised their point of view and consider it inexpedient.

[Skachko] You are also deputy chairman of the Ukrainian People's Rukh, Ukraine's first political party, which has announced its opposition to all power structures. Do you think that the ruling authority, which fears learning the people's opinion about it, is capable of effectively running the country?

[Lavrinovich] I think that your question also contains an answer—naturally, no.

[Skachko] What is your forecast in this situation: What will the authorities do and what will the opposition do?

[Lavrinovich] The authorities will be looking for compromise solutions so as to prolong their existence as presently constituted, and this will be done by all branches of government. In the meantime, political opponents will step up their activity, coordinating their efforts with the labor movement; and unless the Supreme Council adopts well-considered and carefully thought-out decisions, this could have severe implications for the Ukrainian state, when the price of changing the government will be much too high for Ukraine.

The ruling authority wants to leave the stage without the stigma of being ousted, and all of this could apparently end in a resolution on early termination of the powers of the current Supreme Council and on holding early elections; but as for the new election law, I am somewhat less optimistic. Knowing the composition of the current Supreme Council, the viewpoints and opinions of the deputies, it is very difficult to hope that Ukraine's electoral system will be brought into line with the European system. The Soviet system ill fits democratic election procedures.

[Skachko] Rukh, the New Ukraine association, and the Association of Young Political Scientists and Politicians of Ukraine have by way of legislative initiate submitted draft election laws to parliament. Do you know what has happened with these documents?

[Lavrinovich] I do. Our documents, like many others, are lying in the office of the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council's standing deputies Commission on Legislation and Legality, and some deputies who were interested have had a chance to see them; and this is where it all ended.

Cabinet of Ministers Sets Up Group To Improve Budget Procedures

LD1208185793 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1958 GMT 11 Aug 93

[From the "Press Service of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine" for UKRINFORM]

[Text] [no dateline as received] With the aim of implementing the decree of the Ukrainian president "On the Procedure for Fulfilling Ukraine's State Budget" and creating the necessary conditions to improve the system of financing and monitoring expenditures in Ukraine's state budget, the Cabinet of Ministers has set up an interdepartmental working group to elaborate and introduce a new system to fulfill the state budget in cash terms and to utilize the institutional loan of the World Bank. Stanyslav Bukovynskyy, deputy minister of finance and head of the main budgetary directorate, has been appointed the group's leader.

The Ministry of Finance, together with the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Statistics, and the Ministry of Justice and in coordination with the National Bank, have been charged with preparing and presenting to the Cabinet of Ministers proposals on setting up a state treasury system and proposals on sources to cover additional expenditures in connection with this by 1 October.

In view of the tasks resulting from this presidential decree, the Ministry of Finance is allowed to increase the number of employees in local financial bodies by 1,850. The financing of expenditures on maintaining them is to be conducted within the limits of general allocations envisaged in Ukraine's state budget for 1993 for maintaining bodies of state executive power.

The institute of state management and self-government under the cabinet of ministers, along with the Ministry of Finance, is obliged to begin training specialists on the fulfillment of the Ukrainian state budget in cash terms starting this year.

Sets Up Commission on Natural Disasters

LD1208194293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] With the aim of efficiently settling issues pertaining to the exercise of Ukrainian citizens' rights to protect their lives and health against the aftereffects of accidents, catastrophes, large fires, and natural calamities; preventing or lessening economic, ecological, and moral losses; and coordinating and keeping control at the state level over the whole complex of work done and measures taken in this field, a permanent government commission on issues of techno-ecological safety and emergency situations [postiyna uryadova comisiya z pytan tekhnohenno-ekolohichnoyi bezpeky y nadzvychnyh sytuatsiy] has been set up by a decree of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. [Yukhym] Zvyahilskyy, first deputy prime minister of Ukraine, was appointed chairman of the commission and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister [Volodymyr] Demyanov was appointed his first deputy.

Deputy Prime Minister Negotiates With Trade Unions

WS1208130693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk and Oleksandr Stoyan, head of the Federation of Trade Unions, has been held with the participation of responsible representatives from different ministries and trade unions. The representatives of trade unions presented specific observations and proposals. They also requested some explanations on certain regulations of the draft documents connected with price and tariff control and the social protection of the population. An agreement was reached to conduct roundtable negotiations with the trade unions' active members, during which the deputy prime minister will respond to any questions.

Parliament Commissions Drawing Up New Laws for Fall

AU1308083093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Undated statement by the Press Center of Ukraine's Supreme Council: "In the Commissions of Ukraine's Supreme Council"]

[Text] The number of problems confronting the standing commissions of Ukraine's Supreme Council has not decreased in these hot August days.

A group of people's deputies within the Commission for Questions of Ecology and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources is checking how the legislation on the protection of small rivers is being adhered to in the provinces. At the end of July members of the commission visited Poltava and Sumy oblasts, and on 9 August they went to Chernihiv and Rivne oblasts. The results of the inspection will be reported to the Supreme Council and to local executive organs of power.

In accordance with the August work plan, the commission, jointly with specialists from the Ministry of Nature, State Administration for Water Resources, and State Committee for Geology, studied the hydrological situation in Transcarpathia, which has been complicated by persistent rains. Corresponding materials are presently being prepared to be submitted to the Ukrainian government.

For the eighth session of the Supreme Council, the same commission is planning to submit codes on forests and on water resources. It is now completing work on these codes.

The Commission for Questions of Public Health is working on the bill on the population's hygiene-epidemic well-being that was brought in by the Cabinet of Ministers. Proceeding from the fact that an unsatisfactory ecological situation has taken shape in a number of Ukrainian regions, that many areas were affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, and that corresponding difficulties emerged with providing populated areas with a centralized water supply and with effective purification facilities, the members of the commission believe that the bill must be aimed at resolving the aforementioned and other urgent issues. The services of leading specialists of the Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Health, the Academy of Medical Sciences, practicing physicians, and representatives of industrial enterprises who work in the sphere of health protection will be enlisted for an ultimate formulation of the bill. The draft law will be submitted at the beginning of the eighth session.

In connection with the preparation of schools for the new academic year, members of the Commission for Questions of Public Education went to Odessa, Vinnytsya, Lvov, and Kiev oblasts and to Kiev to verify the readiness of educational institutions for study. At the end of August, this question will be discussed at a meeting of the commission with the participation of leaders of the Ministry of Education and other ministries and departments that are directly connected with the educational sphere.

Other commissions of Ukraine's Supreme Council are also conducting legislative and control work.

Donetsk Metallurgical Plant Alters Production

PM1308100193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Aug 93

[By Gennadiy Kondaurov and Li Din Khvan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Kondaurov] Donetsk owes its appearance on the map to the metallurgical plant built here more than 100 years ago by the Englishman John Hughes. The city was then known as Yuzovka. Even today its destiny largely depends on how things are going at this large and famous plant. But the metallurgical industry is currently in the throes of an acute crisis. Ukraine does not need all the metal it used to produce when it was part of the Soviet Union. Production is falling, the workers are facing unemployment, and the environmental pollution caused by hopelessly outdated blast furnaces, open-hearth furnaces, and other units is quite simply becoming an intractable problem.

But the Donetsk Metallurgical Plant has nonetheless found a way out of this very difficult situation. They have decided to simply give up their old production. They will continue smelting only high-quality metals using new technology. Above all, they are switching the plant to the production of finished components for the machine-building industry. In conjunction with the famous German firm Heuser they have already started to convert the plant and build new shops. The foundations of one of these—the car springs shop, which will supply all of Europe—are currently being laid. In two years' time it will be handed over on a turnkey basis and fitted with equipment without parallel at any European plant. The project will cost around $100 million. The Donetsk metalworkers haven't asked the state for a penny. They have earned the money themselves thanks to their membership of a corporation which includes Ukraine's biggest plants. A new, market model is at work—an intersectoral, horizontal association of producers which has given the Donetsk metalworkers a helping hand.

Strontium Level Changed 'Slightly' After Flood

WS1208130193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A team created in connection with the flood in Rovno, Volyn, and Zhytomyr Oblasts held a meeting at the Ukrainian Ministry of Chernobyl. It reported that the strontium content in the water of Polissya [geographical region] Rivers and Kiev Reservoir slightly changed as a result of the element, but does not exceed acceptable levels. The profile working groups, organized by the team, were tasked with preparing weekly reports on the situation in the flooded area. It was emphasized that this work would be carried out to predict a similar calamity in the future. It was also reported at the meeting that residents of areas classified as the ones affected by the controlled radioactive contamination are advised against picking mushrooms and berries.

Greenpeace Protests Use of Nuclear Power

LD1308085593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0821 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov August 13 TASS—Ukrainian members of the international Greenpeace organisation have started in Lvov, the westernmost part of Ukraine, an ecological protest action against the use of nuclear power. They will march across Rovno, Zhitomir, Kiev, Odessa and Nikolayev and end the action in Zaporozhye. These are all large cities with nuclear power plants situated nearby.

The task of the ecological action is to remind the population once again of the threat coming from the modern nuclear power plants. The Ukrainian parliament adopted in 1990 a moratorium on the building of new nuclear power units. However, as a result of an economic crisis, some industrial managers seek to disregard it. Mikhail Umanets, chairman of the State Committee for Nuclear Power Engineering, is especially active in this respect. He said in parliament that ten power units with a capacity of one million kwt and two with a capacity of 440 are now in operation at the five Ukrainian nuclear power plants—near Zaporozhye, Rovno, Khmelnitskiy, Chernobyl and in southern Ukraine. Another four power units have practically been finished. After they are put into operation, the energy programme will be fulfilled at least by half, Umanets believes.

Greenpeace maintains, however, on the basis of the estimates of Ukrainian and foreign specialists that there is a possibility to give up developing nuclear power engineering without any losses for Ukraine's energy supply. Besides, the national Ministry for Protecting the Population Against the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe examined the situation in the areas adjacent to the nuclear power plants. The results of the examination are not optimistic. Thus, some 400,000 people living in six districts in the Rovno region must be resettled immediately.

The situation is similar near the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant. The population of that region is worried over the fact that the authorities are disregarding recommendations of international organisations. According to risk criteria, there should be no more than four power units at one production area, while the sixth power units is ready to be put into operation at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant.

Government's Support for Press Detailed

PM1308085193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Leonid Kapelyushnyy report: "Ukrainian Press Cornered"]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has signed a directive on state support for the press. It instructs the Cabinet of Ministers to examine the question of partially covering the budget expenses incurred by newspapers and magazines due to the latest price hikes for paper and communications services.

During the pre-perestroyka period Ukrainian journalism was a pitiable, wretched thing. I am afraid to incur my colleagues' wrath, but I will nonetheless say that it contained virtually no rebellious, protestant spirit—you could count on your fingers the names of journalists who stirred public opinion. Journalism mainly engaged in glorification and service, which is undoubtedly down to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Ideological Department.

But here is an interesting point. Scarcely had perestroyka removed journalists' muzzle than the formerly intimidated, blinkered Ukrainian journalism was resurrected and began to speak with its own voice. And print runs soared to giddy heights. Print runs of Ukrainian-language publications, moreover, which is gratifying. I consider it necessary to particularly stress this since the idea of the lack of demand for the Ukrainian language in the south and the Donbass and the need for bilingualism is earnestly being put about today....

And now, as the popular TV program says, watch out, here comes the question. What should Ukraine's Government and rulers have done after acquiring independence and adopting a number of major laws on national revival, including the Language Law? Of course, they should have created favorable conditions for the development of the national press.

The Ukrainian Government was well aware of the need for state support of the press. This question was discussed by Vitold Fokin's cabinet in its infancy. Everyone on Ukraine's political Olympus is perfectly well aware and understands about paper, about communication personnel's tyranny, and the young state's shameful dependence on Russia not just for oil but also trivial newsprint, printer's dye and film, zinc plates, etc. And it is shameful because Ukraine could (and should) have resolved a considerable number of the problems.

With some reorganization, the current paper capacities could have provided Ukraine's journalists with around 50 percent of the paper they need. This spring Leonid Kuchma met with Ukrainian newspaper editors and it was stated authoritatively at this meeting that in a year Ukraine could be producing 35,000 tonnes of paper and production could be raised to 50,000 tonnes in all.

Incidentally, before the war a number of paper plants in Ukraine operated on...straw. That technology did indeed exist and specialists say that the paper was quite suitable for household and domestic needs. So, one could, if so desired, even hark back to the old days! But there is a more respectable way. Around 450,000 hectares of forest in Ukraine lie in an exclusion zone [sanitarnaya zona]. From European experience, four cubic meters of timber can be obtained from every hectare. Clearly, this is not Angarsk pine or cedar, but would it not be suitable, if not for stamped paper, then for gray newsprint? But it does after all have to be cut down....

There is a reason for all the branches of power in Ukraine distancing themselves from rescuing the national press and the information area as a whole. A great deal has been said and written about this, so my words are part of a chorus, not a revelation. Having lost the chance to exercise political censorship, the authorities have cast an economic noose around the press's neck.

By summer 1993 a dramatic situation had developed in the Ukrainian information area. After raising the price of its services once again, the Ukrainian Ministry of Communications forced Ukrainian newspapers to carry out resubscription, saying that it was setting a price of 6 karbovantsi 90 kopeks for delivering a copy of a newspaper. But once the resubscription had come to a successful conclusion, there was the joyous news that delivery would cost 27 karbovantsi....

All newspapers found themselves poor and alone overnight. Editors of leading Ukrainian publications sent a letter to the country's president and vice president with the extremely eloquent and accurate title: "Economic Noose Looms Over Ukrainian Press.

The fact that President Leonid Kravchuk responded to the editors' cry for help is splendid. How can you disagree with the president that "the state cannot remain without its own press"?

Why am I confused? First, by the fact that the country's supreme leadership did not rush to save the entire press, but was selective in its actions. It primarily rescued its own press, that published by the power structures.

The second extremely important fact is this. Today the neighboring state's publications—IZVESTIYA, KOMSOMOLKA, TRUD, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, PRAVDA, etc.—are in extremely limited circulation in all Ukraine's big cities, including the capital, Kiev. It is not even that some citizens have simply gotten accustomed to them. Although the right to read your own newspaper ranks among human rights. At the moment the Ukrainian press has an extremely limited number of foreign correspondents both in nearby countries and further afield. That is why events in the "hot spots," which are not decreasing in number, and events in Russia itself are not accessible to Ukraine's reporters and essayists.

I cannot convey words of gratitude from the Ukrainian readership to the Russian Federation's structures of authority for giving the Ukrainian press paper, dyes, zinc plates, etc. By holding Ukraine's departments "by the throat" in this respect they are doing an invaluable service to the people who are stifling freedom of the press and destroying the single information area. In just a short while, a few months, if they try hard, Moscow publications will be a rarity in Ukraine....

It is appropriate to remember that the changes in society began with the word "glasnost." We were not very aware at the time that this was only the prologue to freedom of the press. It is a pity that journalism was immediately made the FOURTH power, immediately made to feel that its freedom sticks in the throat of all the other powers.

Belarus

Preparations Under Way for New Currency

LD1208213693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent L. Sviridov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Belarus, Russia's Slav neighbor, is waiting tensely as the Republic decides whether to introduce its own national currency. The Republic's national bank has already drawn up a special decision whereby from 15 August the national bank's payment notes, which the people have dubbed zaychiki, are to be declared the sole means of payment throughout the whole territory of Belarus.

It is expected that the Russian ruble, the American dollar, the German mark, and currencies of other states will cease to circulate on the Belarusian market, that currency departments of shops will be closed, and that enterprises will be banned from making reciprocal settlements in hard currency.

The black market has immediately reacted to this news. The dollar is now worth more than 2,000 Belarusian rubles. It is expected that the official exchange rate of the Belarusian zaychik to the Russian ruble will be 2:1. The national bank has handed the draft document to the Belarusian Government and parliament. It is unknown, however, whether it will be signed during the next few days, as the state's leading officials are on vacation.

Shortages at National Bank Cause Disruptions

LD1208153393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The surprises by the Russian Bank have turned out to be a major fly in the ointment for the Belarusians. Having only just got rid of their invalid Russian bank notes in ludicrous lines, they have now been forced once again to stand in line, this time to exchange their Belarusian notes for 1993 Russian bank notes which, as we know, were not specially brought from Russian to Belarus. The shortage of Russian cash at the National Bank is wrecking thousands of business trips to neighboring republics and further abroad, and this is causing new problems to snowball.

[Begin S.A. Bogdankevich recording, chairman of the board of the National Bank of Belarus] The policy of the National Bank of Belarus is to immediately remove 1993 rubles from circulation and to create Russian ruble exchange funds. [end recording]

[Correspondent] It appears that Belarus has no alternative. However, no decision has been made.

News Conference Addresses Social Protection

WS1208144493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A news conference on social protection of the population was held 12 August at the Belarusian National Press Center. This is a pressing topic during transition to market economy. According to officials from the Belarusian State Committee for Labor and Social Protection of the Population, the complex transition is implemented with great losses. Production is falling and unemployment is rising. The Republican Center for Employment registered some 96,000 unemployed in the past seven months. Conference participants touched on various aspects of social protection against the backdrop of decreasing production and a sharp rise in the rate of inflation.

Group Protests U.S. Threats Against Serbs

WS1208100693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2000 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The representatives of the Slav Assembly Belaya Rus have decided to display their protest to the U.S. administration and the UN Council and appealed to the Minsk City Executive Council to allow their picketing of the U.S. Embassy buildings and the Belarusian Foreign Ministry in Minsk.

According to the organizers of this move, their purpose is to show their disagreement with the impertinent threats of the Zionist U.S. Administration to perform airstrikes against their brother Serbs. The Slav Assembly Duma is convinced that this airstrike will trigger a revenge airstrike that can put the whole world at the brink of war.

Moldova

George Bush 'Refused' Meeting Tiraspol Representatives

AU1308103593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1853 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 12/8/1993—Reliable sources told BASA that during his recent visit to U.S.A., Grigoriy Marakuta, chairman of the Dniester Supreme Soviet, wanted to meet with George Bush, former U.S. president. However, the American side refused the meeting. Marakuta's visit had been financed with means of the Direction of Constructions and Reparations led by Yakov Tsyshin, who is a most influential man in the dark Dniester economy. The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs had previously forwarded a protest to the Russian Department for External Ties, which issued the foreign passport for Marakuta. Mihai Balan, head of the Consulate Direction of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated to BASA that no official response to the protest came yet. "As there are no rules against such lack of response, everything depends on the shame of the one we are dealing with," said Balan.

Protest Over Russia Issuing Passport to Dniester Official

AU1208181693 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Express Information": "A 'War' for Spheres of Influence"]

[Text] The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handed a note to the Russian ambassador. The note expresses a protest against the granting of a diplomatic passport to the chairman of the Supreme Council of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, G. Marakuta, by the Consular Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The note also points out that the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has information to the effect that the Russian external political department has applied, on behalf of G. Marakuta, for an entry visa to the United States. The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Moldovan external political department alone has the right to issue exit visas to those persons who reside in the territory of Moldova.

Ukrainian Counselor for Minorities Visits Chisinau

AU1308103193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1853 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 12/8/1993—Victor Porsnea, counselor for national minorities of the Russian vice premier, arrives today in Chisinau. Stefan Bozbel, director of the Moldovan Department for National Relations, stated to BASA the visit aims to get aware of the problems of the Russian minority in Moldova. The guest will meet with representatives of the Chisinau center of Russian culture and two recently founded Russian committees. "Russkiy Sobor" and the Committee of Russians from Moldova. These committees are not registered yet. During his stay in Chisinau, Porsnea will have meetings in Parliament, at the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Tourism, the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Culture and Religions, the Department for National Relations and the Department for Languages. Alexandru Conev, from the Department of National Relations, stated to BASA that most problems of Russians in Moldova are connected with the language, as "for several years, Russians are obliged to learn Romanian." Conev said the Russian guest will meet with representatives of Russian newspapers, which are about 25 in Moldova.

Ukrainian Ambassador Discusses Relations, Minorities

AU1308103393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1853 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 12/8/1993—"Moldova has conditions for the fulfillment of national minorities' rights: the approved laws let minorities develop their culture and tradition," stated to BASA Vitaliy Boyko, Ukrainian Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Chisinau. Ukraine and Moldova signed many agreements on economy, culture and science; these fields are the basis for the consolidation of relations between the states. "Moldova opens Ukrainian schools and highschools and celebrates days of Ukrainian culture; however, it is clear that there are no finances to organize teaching in the mother tongue for every national minority in two years," Boyko added. Speaking about the Ukrainian militaries who got control over nuclear rockets, Boyko stated that historically and legally, Ukraine owns these weapons. "Ukraine strives for disarmament and it will abandon its weapons as soon as an official international act grants it security," states Vitaliy Boyko.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brazil

AU1208152293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2016 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, BASAPRESS, 11/8/1993—The ceremony of handing the protocol with regard to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Federal Republic of Brazil took place today in Moscow, communicated the press service of the Moldovan Embassy in the Russian Federation. The protocol was signed from the part of the Republic of Moldova by Anatol Taran, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Russia and from the part of Brazil by the Ambassador of this country in Moscow, Sebastiao do Rego Barros Netto.

Likely Proposals for Tiraspol Supreme Soviet Elections

AU1308102993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1853 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS 12/8/1993—Candidates began to be proposed today for elections in the Tiraspol Supreme Soviet. They will replace four deputies who have quit for various reasons. Reliable sources told BASAPRESS about four Dniester dignitaries which will perhaps be proposed for the Tiraspol district. They are Alexandr Radchenko, head of the local radio post, Andrei Safonov, director of the OLVIA-PRESS agency, Vitaliy Bondarchuk, leader of Cossacks and General Lebed, Commander of the 14th Army. Sources close to the Tiraspol authorities say that Dniester authorities look to change the law, so as to forbid General Lebed take part in elections.

Parliament To Discuss New Elections

MK1208101693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Alexandr Tago report: "Parliament Prolongs Its Existence Until Fall—Thus Keeping the Government, Too"]

[Excerpts] Moldova's parliament was unable to ratify the Almaty agreements. The discussion on the republic's joining the CIS once again forced the parliamentary blocs and groupings to determine where they stood in regard to the Commonwealth, and, foremost, in regard to the economic union that would be created on its basis. [passage omitted]

Local observers think that such a finale to the parliament's emergency session was occasioned by the fact that the parliamentary majority stated at the last moment that they were willing to discuss only one question in the present parliament—an election law and setting the date for new elections.

Parliamentary Majority Leader Dumitru Motspan declared that parliament is unable to perform its functions. He thinks that the deputies who speak for preserving the present Supreme Soviet—this is mainly the parliamentary minority comprised of supporters of the People's Front, the Congress of Intelligentsia, and the Democratic Party of Labor—in reality would like to keep their deputy credentials.

Democratic Party Chairman Aleksandru Arsni thinks that the present parliament should still pass a series of draft laws. Among the main ones he listed were laws on local self-government, territorial-administrative division, and elections of local bodies of power. He believes it would be a good idea to hold new elections no earlier than the fall of 1994. The party leader said that the present parliament will be unable to function only when most of its deputies have resigned.

Aleksandru Mosanu, former parliament chairman, thinks that new elections in Moldova could be held sometime before the fall. According to Mosanu, should the present parliament resign, power would fall to its presidium, where the alignment of forces does not favor the democrats.

Observers note that despite this outcome of the emergency session, the parliamentary majority has achieved the main goal—it has given President Snegur additional powers to implement economic reforms and preserve the cabinet intact, and particularly to keep Deputy Premier Valentin Kunev, Economy Minister Sergei Certan, and Finance Minister Claudia Melnik, whom the opposition is actively challenging.

Deputy Parliament Chairman Viktor Pushkash told journalists after the session that a parliament presidium session scheduled for 12 September would discuss only one question—a draft law on the election of a new parliament of the republic of Moldova.

Financial Problems of Enterprises Viewed

AU1308102793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1853 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 12/8/1993—Producers of tins, sugar, wine and tobacco need over 500 billion rubles to buy raw material. Though, the National Bank will grant commercial banks credits of only 92 billion rubles in the second half of 1993, which is fivefold less than needed, stated to BASAPRESS Mihail Bacical, leading expert of the Commercial Bank Moldova-Agroindbanc S.A. He doubted even these credits, as the National Bank had already ignored its decision to grant a 80 billion credit to the Agrarian Bank for financing the purchase of cereals. The Agrarian Bank had to grant 21 billion credits from its own resources. Bacical said this bank will only be able to grant 40 percent of the credits enterprises need. If Moldova-Agroindbanc does not receive the entire amount of finances from the National Bank, the several billion rubles will become debts of producers of raw material: This will aggravate much their financial situation, said the expert.

Kazakhstan

Deputy Prime Minister Visits Turkey

LD1308094893 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Turkish-Kazakhstani relations have been greatly developed in a short period of time, and the visit of an eminent guest from Almaty to Ankara will give these relations a new impetus. This was a statement made by Erdal Inonu, Turkish deputy prime minister and state minister while receiving Kazakhstani Deputy Prime Minister Syzdyk Abishev who has arrived on an official visit.

Erdal Inonu noted that during the talks with Abishev issues relating to the implementation of the agreements signed between the two brotherly countries would be examined in order to put them into effect as quickly as possible.

Commenting on the visit to Ankara by Abishev, Turkish journalists noted the successfully developing ties with the Turkic-language republics of Central Asia. Special attention was paid to the role of Kazakhstan in establishing once lost historical relations. They stressed that Kazakhstan maintained good relations not only with the new states of its region but also with Turkey's northern neighbor—Russia.

Istanbul media also noted President Nazarbayev's successful participation in the recent session of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], which has become another landmark of cooperation between the Turkic states and their neighbors in the most varying spheres of social life.

Nazarbayev Comments on Ties With Russia, Oil

LD1208171293 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited Atyrau Oblast on 10-11 August. [passage omitted] The president spoke to the people of Atyrau during his walkabout. He was asked numerous questions concerning the shortage of cash, the expected money exchange, and relations with Russia.

I will repeat over and over again that we have to live in friendship with our powerful northern neigbor. That choice has been made by history. We had a thorough discussion of the possiblities for further cooperation and the promotion of bilateral relations in the economy during our recent meeting with the Russia's President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. We signed important agreements, in particular with regard to 1961-1992 banknotes, which for some time will circulate throughout the territory of Kazakhstan until the governments and the central banks agree on taking further steps in this direction.

The head of state was told about the reconstruction plans for the oil refinery during his visit of the works. After its completion it will be able to process 6 million tonnes of oil annually and manufacture 105,000 tonnes of propylene. It should be noted that in a number of indices the technological process depth will make up 90- 94 percent. At present, intensive negotiations are being held with foreign companies on their participation in renewing the capital assets of the works. The idea of its reconstruction has been supported by the World Bank, which after a thorough feasibility study, will allocate the needed credits.

The president positively assessed this initiative by the people of Atyrau. He was also shown a detergents production line producing shampoo in particular, which is in great demand both in the republic and in other countries of the CIS. These products bring a substantial profit to the oil refiners. [passage omitted]

During his meeting with the personnel of Tengiz-Chevroil, he heard about the extracted crude oil transportation to Russia's oil refineries and to other foreign countries. The head of state noted that this issue was discussed during the recent [word indistinct] Kazakhstan talks in Moscow. It will be soon settled at the intergovernment level. Afterward Nursultan Nazarbayev visited a number of Caspian districts which have been damaged by floods. He left for Almaty late in the evening.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev-Karimov Meeting Postponed

LD1208115693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The meeting between the president of Kyrgyzstan [Askar Akayev] and the president of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, planned for today, will not now take place. Officials declined to comment on this news, but trustworthy sources claim that the meeting has simply been postponed until Saturday [14 August]. This was confirmed in Osh, where preparations are underway for the presidents' meeting.

Education Minister Resigns, Cites Government Actions

LD1208104093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Chinara Dzhakipova, the minister of public education of Kyrgyzstan has resigned. She writes in her statement of resignation that in the present economic situation in the republic the government's actions make it impossible to carry out the reform of education, and she can see no reason to remain in her post. [passage omitted]

Russian Border Troops Guard Against Mojahedin

LD1208155093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Sary-Tash border post is under the command of Russian Federation border troops in Kyrgyzstan. The Alay Valley is a harsh mountain area; there is often snow in summer here. The valley is a junction of the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and China. The Osh-Khorog route, across the Pamir mountains, is nearby, and strategists in Bishkek fear that if the border is broken through, mojahedin can pour from Badakhshan into Osh Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. The guns of armored personnel carriers, although covered for the time being, are pointed at both China and Tajikistan, just in case. Taking into account the sad incident at the 12th border post, trenches and passages are being re-equipped here so that, in case of emergency, servicemen will not have to jump out of windows to be gunned down by snipers. And only the flag flying high in the air reminds one that not only Kyrgyzstan but Russia, too, is behind this post.

Ukrainian Paper Reports on National Guard, Currency

AU1208182293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by Yevhen Denysenko from Bishkek—"Kyrgyzstan Kaleidoscope"]

[Text] **The Guards Have an Anniversary and Disciplinary Problems**

The Republic's National Guard has marked its first anniversary. This subunit, which is directly subordinated to the president, has about 800 servicemen in its ranks. In accordance with the Republic's Law on Defense, the National Guard is a constituent part of Kyrgyzstan's Armed Forces. Its main task is to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the republic, to guard important state facilities, and take part in the elimination [of the consequences] of natural disasters.

Former participant in the Afghan war Major General Abdigul Chotabayev, who is the guard's commander, says: "When there is an order—we will even go to the back of beyond." However, so far, God has been merciful. There have been neither back nor beyond. Regarding discipline in the elite unit, the situation is bad—there are conscripts with seniority who take advantage of their position, and there are "spirits," and the hazing of new conscripts by those with more seniority, and even desertion flourishes. A few persons had to go from the National Guard to the "Criminal Guard"—the penal battalion. However, like all military men, A. Chotabayev, criticizes civilian life for everything, saying there is no order and no discipline there.

The Som Is a Delicate Piece of Paper

Huge quantities of Kyrgyzstan's tattered national currency—the som—have accumulated in the banks of Osh Oblast (in the south of the republic). The foreign-made bank notes—the entire batch of money was printed in Britain—have not survived even a few months of not quite extensive use.

The bank notes became torn with uneven edges and there is no hope of restoration. The residents of the republic still believe in the government's promises that the national money will last longer. The people of Kyrgyzstan have already been informed that new bank notes will be put into circulation during the coming fall. Unlike the torn bank notes, which portrayed national epic hero Manas, the new ones will bear the profiles of prominent national heroes and cultural figures.

Statistics Know Everything

According to Kyrgyzstan's State Statistics Agency, as of 1 July 1993, the republic's population totalled 4,507,000 persons. Over half a year, 59,000 babies were born in the country and 17,000 died. The population's natural growth constituted 42,000. Out of 1,000 newborns, 29 babies died before they reached one year and not 32 as was the case during the period between January and June 1992. Respiratory diseases still constitute the main cause of mortality (in one-half of all cases of children's death).

Communist Party Calls For Overcoming 'Crisis'

LD1108093193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0901 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek August 11 TASS—A call to exert every effort to overcome a crisis in Kyrgyzstan was made to members of the Communist Party of Kyrgyzstan by the presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the party.

The Kyrgyzstan Communist Party is now the largest organisation among some ten political parties and several dozens public movements in Kyrgyzstan. According to different sources, it has a membership of from 20 to 25 thousand. Primary organisations were restored at many industrial enterprises of the republic. The municipal committee of the party is being set up in Bishkek. The party stated the wish to come to office in a constitutional way.

"Economic disarray, poverty and humilations are the tragic reality of the present", says the message. "Kyrgyzstan is in the midst of an acute economic crisis in the economy, socio-political, spiritual and other areas". The situation will soon aggravate still more, the message says. Price rises will be accompanied to bankruptcy of enterprises and mass unemployment.

"It becomes apparent that the present leadership lost the reins of control in the republic. It has neither an overall strategy nor a specific programme for overcoming the crisis in Kyrgyzstan". Leaders of the Communist Party urged party members "to set up primary organisations, to form territorial bodies of the party and vigorously enter the political life".

Citizens With 'Low Incomes' To Receive Subsidies

LD1108135693 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Summary] In Bishkek, 4,000 citizens with low incomes will receive special subsidies to buy fuel for the coming winter. In fact, this figure should be ten times higher.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brazil

LD1108172293 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1110 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Summary] First Deputy Foreign Minister (Kapalov) has signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Brazil at the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow. Sebastiao do Rego Barros, Brazilian ambassador to the Russian Federation, signed the protocol.

Tajikistan

Russian, Khazak Border Guards Still Hostage in Afghanistan

LD1208183193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 12 Aug 93

["URGENT"—ITAR-TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Aug—It is most likely that five Russian and Kazakh border guards, who were taken hostage on 10 August by a group of armed people on the border territory of Kurgovad's Pomirskiy kishlak, will spend tonight on the Afghan side. ITAR-TASS has learned from military sources that the Afghan side did not release the hostages this afternoon as it had promised an official delegation from Dushanbe that took part in negotiations.

The servicemen assume that the organizers of the armed provocation do not want to admit that they are responsible for this action. At the same time, it has become known that the hostages were captured by Afghan mojahedin from a group run by Abdol Qadir, a field commander.

Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala has expressed his great interest in the settlement of "this sad incident" as soon as possible. He is paying an official visit to Dushanbe. He said this evening in an official conversation with journalists that the delegation headed by him will remain in Dushanbe until the return of the hostages.

Guards To Be Exchanged for Afghan Prisoners

LD1308111593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The six [as heard] CIS border troops servicemen who were taken hostage by fighters on the Tajik-Afghan border will be released. In turn, the Tajik Government has decided to hand over to the Afghan authorities five Afghan citizens who crossed the border illegally.

Detained Afghans To Be Returned to Dushanbe

LD1308083893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0820 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 13 TASS—ITAR-TASS has just learnt from reliable sources that five Afghan nationals detained while they were illegally crossing the Tajik-Afghan border on various dates, will be handed over to the Afghan consulate in Dushanbe this afternoon. This is a goodwill act of Tajik authorities.

Local analysts believe that the Tajik authorities took this decision, hoping for an adequate move from the Kabul government.

Afghanistan continues to detain four Russian and one Kazakh border guards taken hostage by a group of Afghan mujahideen on August 10.

The negotiations with the Afghan side in the Afghan village of Moimai, continuing for the third day, have not yielded any positive results for the time being.

Handover of Afghans Postponed

LD1308105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe 13 August—The handover of five Afghans who violated the border to representatives of the Afghan consulate in Dushanbe will be postponed until 14 August. ITAR-TASS correspondents were told this at the Tajik Foreign Ministry information department. It was reported earlier that this act of good will on the part of the Tajik Government was to have taken place later today.

Humanitarian Aid Convoy Arrives in Gorno-Badakhshan

LD1208171993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenkov]

[Text] Dushanbe August 12 TASS—A large motorised convoy with humanitarian cargoes for residents of the

Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region arrived today in the area of the Khaburabad Pass from Dushanbe and was turned over to representatives of the local authorities. Tens of trucks brought food, medicines and fuel to the region which was under the economic blockade for six months. Textbooks and teaching aids were also brought with the humanitarian cargo to Gorno-Badakhshan as a new academic year in schools is approaching.

Runs with humanitarian cargo along the Dushanbe-Khorog route from which blockade was lifted will become regular. Only two or three months remain to go before the highland pass will be impossible to reach because of weather conditions.

Oblast Officials Attacked in Gorno-Badakhshan

LD1208183093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Aug—A delegation of the oblast administration headed by Oblast Executive Committee Chairman Zamirov has been subjected to an armed attack in the village of Safedsang in Gorno-Badakhshan. The delegation was on its way to Kalaikhumbskiy rayon for negotiations with representatives of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Alidzhon Mamanadzarov, deputy head of the oblast department for internal affairs, was injured when the car in which the delegation was traveling was fired on. Military sources in Dushanbe have confirmed this report, adding that an investigation into these events has been started as a matter of urgency. Valeriy Uyanayev, a senior executive of Tajikistan's Defense Ministry, has left for the conflict area.

Rakhmanov, Abdullodzhonov Visit Kurgan-Tyube Factories

LD1208184093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0300 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov, chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers, arrived in Kurgan-Tyube on 11 August to familiarize themselves with the course of the implementation of the government's decree of 7 May on immediate measures to restore the national economy of Khatlon Oblast.

Rakhmanov and Abdullodzhonov first visited the Vakhsh nitrogen fertilizer factory, where they met with the factory's work collective. The head of state informed the workers in detail about the present social, political, and economic situation in Tajikistan. Touching on the issue of the planned increases in prices for flour and cooking oil, Rakhmanov noted that the government of the Republic has to take this action today. He stressed that after the prices on these products are increased, every member of the family will get five kg of flour and half a kg of cooking oil free of charge every month.

Abdullodzhonov assured the collective of the factory that Tajikistan will not have a deficit of flour and cooking oil. The workers at the Vakhsh nitrogen fertilizer factory noted that they fully support the present constitutional structure. They assured the head of state and government that if the supply of raw materials were provided without stoppage, the output of the factory would increase considerably.

On the same day Rakhmanov and Abdullodzhonov visited the Kurgan-Tyube garment and cotton cleaning factory and the local transformer factory, where they had talks with workers. Ubaydullayev, Samadov, Mahkamov, Nazriyev, Yeliseyev, and Mirzoyev, deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, and other officials accompanied them on their visit.

Government To Compensate for Increase in Food Prices

LD1208121793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Tajik Government has adopted a resolution to pay a monthly cash benefit to the population in connection with the introduction of maximum controlled prices for flour, bread, and grain products and vegetable oil. According to the resolution, every inhabitant of Tajikistan will receive a monthly sum of 1,700 rubles starting 15 August. This sum will compensate for the cost of five kg of flour and 500 grams of vegetable oil.

Interior Ministry Denies Charges of Holding Political Prisoners

LD1208150193 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 0300 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Nearly every day, the foreign mass media spreads slander about the legally elected government of Tajikistan, which is doing everything possible to stabilize the situation in the country. The enemies of the Tajik nation who have found asylum abroad do not wish to admit that the peoples of our country are living a calm life.

Referring to various unknown sources, these enemies broadcast their false and slanderous information through the channels of Radio Liberty, the BBC, and the Voice of America. Quite often they broadcast on behalf of secondary persons, in particular through representatives of various societies of Russia and international organizations.

For example, there is Salim Ayubzod, who has a long experience of broadcasting slanderous materials and has often used his experience on the pages of the weekly CHAROGZI RUZ. Citing Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy (Yevgeniy Yushenko), Salim Ayubzod alleged that there are special camps for political prisoners in

Tajikistan, which are controlled by armed groups who are unquestioningly loyal to the government of the republic, and that the government does not hamper them. Moreover, according to Ayubzod, Yushenko received this information in Tajikistan from one of the leaders of the Tajik Interior Ministry.

In this connection, the republic's Interior Ministry quite categorically asserts that none of its leaders provided anybody with this false, slanderous information. It also declares that there is no such camp or illegally convicted person on the territory of Tajikistan. The republic's Interior Ministry and its law enforcement bodies are taking all measures to disprove the slander. Nobody has been convicted in the Republic of Tajikistan for his political ideas. As to the several arrested persons who have been charged with specific crimes, we report that they will remain under our control until the investigation is complete. No kind of force is being used by our employees against them. The situation in the republic is fully controlled by the law enforcement bodies and we will never allow mob law to be used against any inhabitant of the republic.

Turkmenistan

Negotiations on Georgian Gas Debt End 'Without Result'

PM1208082993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 93 First Edition p 6

[ITAR-TASS report under "News Service Working" rubric: "Turkmenistan-Georgia"]

[Text] Talks between government delegations from Turkmenistan and Georgia on payments for the delivery of natural gas have ended without result in Ashgabat. While receiving a stable supply of fuel for seven months, Georgia has not paid a single ruble either for its delivery or for its transportation. Taking indexation into account, its debts to Turkmenistan amounted to $115 million on the day of the talks.

The proposals made at the talks by the head of the Georgian government delegation—Vice Premier Z. Kervalishvili—for using the manpower of Georgian construction organizations on Turkmen territory, delivering construction materials, giving assistance in the construction of runways and the electrification of railroad lines and others were not adopted as acceptable sources for covering the debt. There is a lack of material resources in Turkmenistan today for the construction of these projects. In the opinion of the Turkmen delegation, the question of the arrears can only be resolved by payment in Russian rubles or in a hard currency. The third option is to terminate the supply of gas.

Shevardnadze To Attend Summit

LD1308080193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0623 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat August 13 TASS—The Georgian-Turkmen talks on settlements for Turkmen gas, which ended in a deadlock last week, will be continued at a summit meeting. Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed his intention to visit Turkmenistan on an official visit.

He will arrive in Ashgabat on Tuesday, August 17. A large group of Georgian experts will arrive in the Turkmen capital on Friday to prepare a large package of documents on the eve of the visit by the head of the Georgian state.

Commander Discusses Formation, Role of Border Guards

LD1008162493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226 GMT 10 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, August 10 (TASS)—"We are reliably safeguarding the interests of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States," Turkmen border guards commander Akmurad Kabulov stated on the eve of the first anniversary of his units, which will be celebrated on August 11.

The Central Asian border district of the Soviet Union with headquarters in Ashgabat ceased to exist one year ago. But the southern border remained, and it is among the longest on the territory of the former union. National border guard units were formed in Turkmenistan to guard it. They are functioning hand in hand with Russian border guards. As a result, the republic now has a reliably defended border and men to be posted on it, including many Russian servicemen, who do not want to leave Turkmenistan. Ashgabat officials have already drawn up a draft contract for them, under which they will be able to live and serve in the republic. Although the Russian parliament has still not ratified the agreement on cooperation between the border guard forces of Russia and Turkmenistan, Kabulov is convinced that the Russian Federation does not want the almost 853-kilometres-long Turkmen-Afghan border, which is only a bit shorter than the Tajik-Afghan frontier, to be left unguarded.

Turkmenistan has begun to train its own personnel. Some junior officers have already received training at the first national border guard schools. A three-year officers school will be set up in the republic next year. But it takes a long time to train officers, while the border cannot afford to wait.

"In light of all this, can we withdraw even one squad from our border and send it to Tajiikistan?", inquires General Kabulov, who shares the view of his president.

The political and military logics are closely intertwined in Turkmenistan, embodying positive neutrality and non-interference in the affairs of other states. By its policy Turkmenistan is doing its best to help safeguard peace and stability in the region.

The formation of national border guard units, according to Kabulov, is a sufficiently painful process. "Faithful to the good old traditions, the population of border areas renders every possible assistance to frontier guards. Relations between Turkmen and Russian servicemen within the border guard units are very good, indeed. The number of Turkmenistan's friends in other countries, including Iran and Afghanistan, is growing," the general stressed.

Armenia

Karabakh Leader Draws UN Attention to Azerbaijani Moves

NC1208200093 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1102 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Acting Chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Karen Baburyan sent an appeal to the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and to the Security Council yesterday in connection with the intensification of the aggressive operations by Azerbaijan against NKR.

The appeal says that in recent days the Azerbaijani Armed Forces violated the bilateral cease-fire agreement and launched attacks all along the military operations front, and subjected the peaceful settlements to massive shelling using artillery and air power. Regrettably, the violation of the agreement is taking place after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 853.

Hence, in the name of the NKR leadership K. Baburyan called on the UN Secretary General and Security Council members to support the development of the direct bilateral contacts and help in bringing about a high-level meeting between the Azerbaijani and NKR leaders.

The appeal goes on to say that, according to available information, Azerbaijan is preparing to launch a new and even more powerful aggressive operation soon, which would threaten the security of the peaceful population in a number of rayons of NKR. If they resort to such operations, Azerbaijan will bear full responsibility for the consequences.

In conclusion, the appeal requests the UN Secretary General and Security Council members to urgently examine the existing situation and condemn the Azerbaijani actions that undermine the peace process.

Calls For Direct Talks With Azerbaijan

NC1208142393 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1102 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Acting Chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Karen Baburyan issued a statement yesterday in which it was specifically said that, true to the usual behavior of undermining any move that tries for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, this time around too, Azerbaijan, by persistently disseminating misinformation on the occupation of Fizuli by the NKR Defense Army, is pursuing its aim of ruining the atmosphere surrounding the Rome talks. In this way it effectively influenced the content of UN Security Council Resolution 853.

The NKR leader is linking this situation, which has emerged in Azerbaijan not for the first time, to the power struggle, this time particularly to the referendum on confidence in the Azerbaijani president. To attain their goal, the Azerbaijani political forces are misleading the international community and their own people by creating new obstacles to resuming the bilateral negotiations.

In expressing the will of our people, the statement concludes, we have declared many times before and are again reiterating our readiness for direct talks with the Azerbaijani Republic within the framework of the Minsk process for an immediate end to the shooting, during which we are ready to examine all issues, including the issue of the territories occupied during the military operations.

Karabakh Official Requests International Observers

NC1208201093 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1603 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Press Secretary of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Gegam Bagdasaryan said in a statement issued in Stepanakert today: "We call upon the international community, the UN, and the CSCE to send independent observers to the region. Propaganda deception is not an ally of the peace process in Karabakh. We displayed our goodwill by sending a delegation to Rome, and we are ready for direct dialogue with Azerbaijan."

He said that the Azerbaijani propaganda machine is continuing to exploit the deceitful reports about the alleged occupation of Fizuli by the Karabakh Defense Army in an attempt to influence the participants in the CSCE's Minsk Group, which at present is meeting in Rome to examine ways to settle the conflict. However, the NKR leadership has produced significant proof that it is Fizuli itself that has become the Azerbaijani Army's major military base near the borders of NKR, and it is from there that the Republic's territory is subjected to destructive rocket and artillery salvos.

Azerbaijan Troops Warned To Halt Advance on Karabakh

LD1308091993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in English 2140 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry press office of NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh region] said that the Azeri command is preparing the army for a military offensive against Karabakh. The commander of the NKR army headquarters, Seiran Oganyan, revealed that the reason for the advancement of the Azeri Army is that the ethnic Armenian forces of Karabakh, implementing the orders of the NKR Government and the NKR army command, are not undertaking counter-measures. The commander of the NKR army headquarters stated that if the Azeris do not stop their military offensive against Karabakh, the NKR army will be given an order to destroy the Azeri weapon installations which are a threat to the security of the people in Karabakh.

Yerevan Updates Situation, Reports Azerbaijan's Attacks

NC1208182593 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation on the front lines in Nagorno-Karabakh is extremely tense. Azerbaijan's military units have launched attacks in various directions and intensely fired on the Armenian residential areas with heavy arms, including rocket launchers and artillery guns. The NKR Defense Headquarters has disclosed that clashes are taking place in NKR's eastern and southern sectors.

Meanwhile, the neighboring republic's mass media organs have tried to describe the Armenian side as the aggressor once again. Apparently, their objective is to strengthen the war hysteria in that republic, [words indistinct], and divert the people's attention from the gradually worsening political and economic crises in Azerbaijan. It is common knowledge that Azerbaijan's leaders and military commanders claimed several times in the past that the Armenian forces occupied Fizuli. Their objective was to describe the NKR as an aggressor. They maintain the same policy at the present time. [passage omitted]

It must be noted that the Azerbaijan National Army units have succeeded in placing several heights in Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons under their control during the past few days. The advance of Azerbaijan's units confirm the fact that NKR's military units have fully complied with the instructions they have received from that republic's leaders and military commanders not to launch retaliatory operations. However, the head of the NKR Defense Headquarters has warned that the NKR defense units will be ordered to destroy the enemy fire emplacements if Azerbaijan's military units do not abandon their combat operations. [passage omitted]

A serious incident has not occurred in the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the past three days. A relatively peaceful situation has prevailed in that region. We hope that the present situation will continue.

Further on Border Situation

NC1208184093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A relative calm has prevailed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border for the last four days. The Armenian Defense Minister press service reported that no serious incidents took place during the night of 11-12 August and today.

Taking cover under the daily disinformation on the alleged attack on Fizuli by the Karabakh detachments, the Azerbaijani side is continuing to intensify the military operations along the eastern borders of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

NKR Defense Army Headquarters reported that the Armenian border settlements in Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons again come under rocket and artillery shelling from the direction of Fizuli on the night of 11-12 August. In the meantime, Fizuli is being reinforced with Azerbaijani military hardware and troops.

The enemy opened fierce artillery and Grad fire on Agdam, which was abandoned by the Azerbaijanis, at 2100 on 11 August, thinking that there were NKR Defense Army subunits there. However, as has been announced many times before by NKR leaders, Agdam is vacant. Therefore, only the Azerbaijani city has suffered from these military operations. Undoubtedly, later on, the Azerbaijani side will try to ascribe the destruction inflicted by it to the operations carried out by the Karabakh forces.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Reports Armenian Attacks on Fizuli

NC1208170493 Baku TURAN in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—As press-centre of Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports, lasted yesterday for the whole day Armenian advance of Fizuli is stopped. The enemy had been stopped near the road Fizuli-Dzhebrail 2 KMS to the South-West of region centre. Both sides have losses.

From this morning Fizuli has been repeatedly bombarded from Armenian side.

At present 16 villages of Fizuli region are occupied by Armenian forces. Front line is 5 km to north-west, 4 km to the west and 2.5 km to the south-west of the town. Occupying strategical heights around Fizuli, Armenians have opportunity to bombard Fizuli and neighbouring villages.

Along with all this, Armenian propaganda goes on to insist on the fact, that two regions of Nagorno-Karabakh are bombarded from Fizuli and weapon emplacement of Azeris in this place seriously threatened peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian party has repeatedly used this old propagandistic act before seizure of Kelbadzharskiy and Agdamskiy regions of Azerbaijan.

Front Lines Reportedly 'Stabilized'

NC1208182093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] According to the communique issued by the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center at 1800 today, the situation on the front lines stabilized to a certain degree yesterday and today. Only some occasional exchanges of fire took place around Fizuli. The communique, which AZERTAC received some time ago, also said that the tension has not decreased in Agdamskiy Rayon. No serious changes have occurred during the day in that rayon.

Diplomats Express 'Serious Concern' Over Fighting

LD1208175893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 12 Aug— The staff of diplomatic missions in Baku today [12 August] voiced serious concern over the escalation of fighting near the rayon center of Fizuli in Azerbaijan. The staff sent an address to Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense. Mahmud al-Sa'id, the UN plenipotentiary in Azerbaijan, has left on an urgent trip to Fizuli in order to study the situation on the spot.

An AZERTAC correspondent was told at the information and analysis center of the Defense Ministry that, at the end of the day-long fighting, the Armenian troops' offensive misfired in the area southwest of Fizuli and they were thrown back to their original positions. Both sides have sustained losses. Last night and this morning the rayon center and villages in the adjacent Dzhebrailskiy rayon were occasionally fired on by Armenian artillery and tanks.

UN Envoy To Visit Fizuli

NC1208173293 Baku TURAN in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—Representative of UN General Secretary in Azerbaijan Mahmud-al-Sa'id has left today for Fizuli to get acquainted with the situation. UN Supreme Commissariat on refugees, in its turn, taking into account possible seizure of Fizuli and cutting off main Fizuli-Dzhebrail, has sent a great batch of humanitarian help for 150 thousand people to Iran. If the road, mentioned above, be seized, citizens of Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy regions of Azerbaijan would be absolutely blockaded by Armenian forces and they can save their lives only by passing Iranian-Azerbaijan boundary. In this connection Commissariat have undertaken these activities.

Baku Reports Explosion in Nakhichevan

NC1208182693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] An explosion has destroyed the dining hall in the central [word indistinct] in Nakhichevan. The Nakhichevan Ministry of Internal Affairs has informed an RIA NEWS AGENCY correspondent that the incident caused significant anxiety in the area. An investigation has been launched into the incident. The ministry also said that several groups have illegal arms in their possession. Measures are being taken to disarm them.

Moscow Mayor Arrives in Baku To Sign Trade Agreement

NC1208174993 Baku TURAN in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—Today Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov has arrived in Baku. As TURAN agency had been told by the executive power staff of Baku, agreement on trade-economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Moscow is expected to be signed. The same source reported, this contract provides for mutual trade turnover in sum of 2 billion roubles.

Today deputy president of Azerbaijan, chairman of Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev will receive Yuriy Luzhkov.

This is the second visit of mayor of Moscow to Baku. His first visit was at the end of October 1992. At that time leaders of two capitals have also signed an agreement on financial and state policy cooperation, which provided for development of effective structures of administration.

Discusses Trade With Guseynov

NC1308091393 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1533 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 12 Aug (AZERTAC)—The Republic's prime minister, Surat Guseynov, said during his meeting with Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov this evening: Azerbaijan will develop its economic ties with other countries based exclusively on reciprocal advantage. We will determine this advantage by taking the country's national interests into consideration. In this way the prime minister implied that the Republic, which is experiencing difficulty because of the ongoing Armenian aggression, does not wish to be a source of raw materials as it was before.

The Moscow mayor said that his government wants to develop ties on the basis of reciprocal interests. He promised the Azerbaijani prime minister that he would help in sending provisions to Azerbaijan. He also suggested that Azerbaijan purchase potatoes from Russia, since the yield was good this year. In its turn, Moscow wants to purchase vegetables, fruit, tobacco, sparkling wine, other types of wines, and petrochemical products.

The Moscow mayor's proposal for agreements between Moscow and Azerbaijan to wage a joint struggle against criminal activity and to strengthen cultural ties were also discussed during the meeting.

A number of trade and economic agreements will be signed between Moscow and Azerbaijan tonight.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD1208221693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman, AZERTAJ Correspondent Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 13 TASS—An agreement on direct commercial and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Moscow was signed on Thursday [12 August] evening in Baku. It envisages annual obligations of the sides on mutual delivery of various products in the volume surpassing 100 billion roubles, the setting up of a joint bank to facilitate the financing of the programme and the opening of its missions in Baku and Moscow.

The sides also agreed on contacts to step up combating crime and in the cultural area.

Speaking after the signing of the agreement, Mayor of the Russian capital Yuriy Luzhkov and Geydar Aliyev acting as the Azeri president emphasised the importance of the event which, they believe, will help stabilise the economies of Moscow and Azerbaijan. At the same time, Luzhkov noted that a number of matters in the development of mutually advantageous contacts remain unresolved. He said this is so because of customs barriers and high export and import duties on products in both directions. But, he believes, this is so only for the time being and can be remedied.

The visit of the Moscow mayor is regarded in Azerbaijan as an important step towards strengthening Azeri-Russian relations, Aliyev said. He said that it helps strengthen confidence between the two states and peoples.

People's Front To Boycott Elchibey Referendum

NC1208170993 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1237 GMT 12 Aug 93

["APF Intends To Boycott the Referendum on Trust to President Elchibey"—ASSA-IRADA headline]

[Text] Baku, 12.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—It is already clear now that the results will be framed-up since it is expected to take place when state of emergency is in effect, said chairman of APF [Azerbaijan People's Front] Supreme Mejlis Gulamgusein Aliyev at the press-conference today, August 12. Anyway, in compliance to the Constitution the referendum is not enough to dismiss the president, it can only reveal the public opinion, he added. Seizing upon the right for propaganda on the eve of this action provided by the law of referendum, the APF plans to initiate a rally on August 13, said Arif Ragimov, the deputy chairman of the APF, especially as repeated request by the APF to appear on TV found no reply. As there are reports that the rally might be dispersed, we invited the representatives of foreign embassies to participate in it, added Gulamgusein Aliyev.

Elchibey's Press Secretary Holds News Conference

NC1208174393 Baku TURAN in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—Yesterday press-conference of former Secretary of State Ali Kerimov took place in Washington.

As press-secretary of the President Abulfaz Elchibey, Arif Aliyev, told TURAN agency, it had been pointed at press-conference, that planned August 29 referendum on confidence to the President Elchibey aimed at giving legal character to the coup, that had been realized by present regime. Ali Kerimov also noted, results of referendum would not be of juridical character as resolution on holding referendum contradicted several articles of the Constitution of the country.

Kamberov Goes on Hunger Strike To Protest His Arrest

LD1308083593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Isa Kamberov, chairman of the Musavat Party and former speaker of Azerbaijan's Parliament, has announced a hunger strike as a protest against his 16 July arrest. This was reported by the EKPRESS-KHRONIKA newspaper.

Other members of the Musavat Party have joined the hunger strike. They demand that human rights violations in Azerbaijan be stopped and that an independent procurator be appointed to investigate the criminal case of Isa Gamberov. I remind you that he was found guilty of the well known tragic events in Ganja.

Georgia

Abkhazia Sides Agree to 'Disengaging' on 16 Aug

LD1208142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug—The plan for disengaging the combatants in Abkhazia was ratified at a session of the tripartite working group for military affairs and security, which forms part of the joint commission for settling the conflict. The session ended on Wednesday [11 August]. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this at the press service of the Abkhazian parliament.

Disengagement will be completed at noon on 16 August. The armed forces of Abkhazia will be pulled back to the areas where the units of the Republic's internal troops are located. The Georgian military formations will be pulled back to the populated center of Machara. By midnight on 16 August, the provisional control groups and observers are to establish the withdrawal of all troops and armed formations from all positions.

On 17 August all fortifications will be destroyed and all minefields will be cleared in the presence of observers.

The participants in the session agreed that it is necessary to set up strengthened provisional control groups as a working body of the joint commission for settling the conflict in Abkhazia. The control groups will each have one observer from each side, two communications officers, and up to 10 bodyguards. At sections which are especially responsible, the composition of the groups and armaments may be changed by agreement of the sides.

UN international observers have been asked to take part in the work of the provisional control group, within the framework of their powers.

Withdrawing From Conflict Zone Agreed

PM1308113393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 2

[Irina Shchegoleva report: "Troops Leave; United Commission for Settlement in Abkhazia Continues Its Work"]

[Text] A scheduled sitting of the united commission for a settlement in Abkhazia has ended in Pitsunda. According to Sergey Shoyga, leader of the Russian side of the joint commission and chairman of the State Committee for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, the sides have reached agreement on implementing the main point of the agreement on a cease-fire in Abkhazia—disengaging [razvedeniye] the opposing sides' armed formations and withdrawing the troops from the conflict zone.

The working group of the joint commission for military questions and security was instructed to draw up a concrete plan for the creation of reinforced trilateral temporary monitoring groups with the participation of UN observers, and a plan for separating all armed formations and withdrawing them from Abkhazia .

In a conversation with journalists, Sergey Shoygu [name as published] said that the requisite number of international observers has not yet arrived in the conflict zone, and this circumstance is making work considerably more difficult. Tomorrow representatives of the sides' military leadership will meet in Sukhumi with the advance detachment of UN observers who are in the Abkhaz capital.

The minutes of today's sitting also note that as of 10 A.M. on 14 August, reinforced temporary monitoring groups with the participation of UN observers will go into operation in the demilitarized zone, and the disengagement of the opposing sides will start at 12 P.M. hours 14 August. The deadline for the end of the withdrawal of all armed formations from the territory of Abkhazia was established: Midnight on 16 August. The withdrawal of the artillery and armored equipment will be conducted according to a previously established timetable.

Shevardnadze Seeks UN Decision on Peacekeepers

LD1208191193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1404 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Aug—Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze had a phone conversation with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali late last night. The conversation concentrated on the dispatch of additional forces of international observers to Abkhazia, which, in Shevardnadze's opinion, requires an immediate decision.

Positively assessing Russia's participation in the cease-fire and in settling the conflict, Eduard Shevardnadze noted: "For this process to continue, the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations takes on great significance." At present, he stressed, everything depends on how quickly international observers arrive in the conflict zone. If the UN Security Council adopts a decision on introducing peacekeeping forces, Eduard Shevardnadze believes the problem of the conflicts in Georgia will finally be resolved, creating a worldwide precedent for the resolution of conflicts in such a short time.

Butrus Butrus-Ghali assured the Georgian leader that he will make every effort to resolve all the issues in a positive manner. The UN secretary general stressed that he will do everything possible to give new impetus to the recently-begun peacekeeping process in Abkhazia, so that a peaceful settlement of the conflict is possible.

Abkhazia Body Appeals to UN

LD1308110693 Tbilisi IBERIA INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 0925 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 13 August—Today, Abkhazia's Salvation Committee sent an appeal to UN representative Per Kastrem. A copy of the appeal was sent to Mr. Shevardnadze. The appeal says that despite the fact that Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Bill Clinton, and Boris Yeltsin have been informed many times about the artillery fire directed on Sukhumi, peacekeeping forces have not yet arrived in the conflict zone. The causes for this delay are not known. "Considering your authority, and the fact that you are well aware of the situation in Abkhazia, following your visit to Sukhumi, we ask you to help in obtaining the speedy deployment of peacekeeping forces. This is very important to us, because if the war were renewed in this region, it might assume a global nature," the appeal states.

UN Observers Fired On

LD1208150493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Over the last 24 hours, there have been new shoot-outs between Georgian troops and Abkhaz guerrillas in Abkhazia. According to a POSTFACTUM agency report, the first group of UN observers was fired upon in Sukhumi yesterday evening. There were no casualties, POSTFACTUM reports.

Gumista Quiet; Fires 'Raging' in Tsagora, Aradu

LD1308082693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 13 TASS—There were no fire engagements at the Gumista front over the past 24 hours, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press service of the Abkhazian Parliament. The situation is less stable in the eastern direction.

According to an Abkhazian source, the Georgian side made several artillery shots at the village of Katsykhabla, Ochamchira District at 21:20 on Thursday. The Abkhazian side did not return fire.

According to information from the Abkhazian Defence Ministry, fires are raging in the villages of Tsagora, Aradu and the Ninth District of Ochamchira.

The joint commission on a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict will hold its regular meeting in Adler on Friday.

The meeting will examine the implementation of a plan for the disengagement of the warring sides, which was adopted by the working group on military affairs and security in Sukhumi on August 11. The commission also plans to discuss the exchange of POWs and the release of hostages.

Armed Forces Deny Abkhazia Claims of Attacks

LD1308083093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia categorically denies the information of the so-called Supreme Council of Abkhazia, which was spread by ITAR-TASS yesterday. According to the report, Georgian troops are still firing on the villages of Ochamchire Rayon, and moreover, the Abkhazians assert that the Georgian side was using antiaircraft weapons, grenade launchers, machine guns and automatic weapons on Wednesday, 11 August. The Abkhaz side needs these lies, the press center of the Georgian armed forces states, to hinder the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict and justify its combat actions as a response to the aforementioned claims.

Armed Forces Report Sukhumi, Ochamchire Quiet

LD1308091193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] This morning we made contact with the press center of the Georgian armed forces in Abkhazia and we were told that it is presently quiet in Sukhumi and Ochamchire.

At 2 A.M., the separatists started to fire near the village of Shroma, but the foreign observers intervened and the shooting stopped.

Those organizing the exchange of prisoners of war removed the bodies of 12 dead guardsmen and three civilians from Shroma.

Group Said Urging More Fighting in Abkhazia

LD1208210093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] It has been learned from reliable sources that the agreement on a cease-fire in Abkhazia evoked differences between the leaders of the confederation [not further identified] and Abkhazian separatists. Demanding that the war continue, the confederates are promising the separatists financial assistance as well as help in personnel and arms. They are currently putting pressure on leaders of the Gudauta group and Abkhaz nationals who live in Moscow and other regions of Russia. Death threats have been made.

Representatives of the confederates have recently been in Gudauta to hold talks with Vkadislav Ardzinba. In spite of the resistance of some pro-Russian leaders in the Gudauta group, Ardzinba agreed with the confederates because he shares their views.

It must be said that the opposing side has begun to concentrate personnel along the front line. Armed units of the opposing side are being supplied with artillery shells and other ammunition. Three IL-76 airplanes loaded with ammunition landed at Bombora airfield on 7 and 8 August. An attack on Sukhumi is probable in the second half of August.

Shevardnadze Issues Directive on Treatment of Abkhaz POW's

AU1208173593 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 4 Aug p 1

["Directive of the Georgian Head of State on Elaborating a Mechanism of Defense of the Rights of Prisoners of War Captured During Military Operations and on the Procedure for the Burial of the Bodies of Enemy Fighters Killed or Dead and for Handing Them Over to the Opposing Side"; issued in Tbilisi on 2 August]

[Text] The armed conflicts taking place on the territory of the Republic of Georgia, along with other unresolved problems, have placed on the agenda the creation of a mechanism of defense of the rights of prisoners of war captured during military operations in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law and also the elaboration of a procedure for the burial of the bodies of enemy fighters killed or dead and for handing them over to the opposing side.

Proceeding from this:

1. The Republic of Georgia Minister of Defense is to issue an order and entrust one of the deputy ministers of defense to resolve questions connected with the problems of prisoners of war captured during armed conflicts.

2. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense:

a) is to create a camp for prisoners of war on the base of one of the military units of the Republlc of Georgia Armed Forces and to provide it with the necessary quantity of food, appropriate clothing, and other essential conditions;

b)is to form a special purpose subunit that will ensure the safe transportation of prisoners of war and protect their rights on the territory of the prisoner-of-war camp in accordance with the requirements of the additional protocol "On the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts" of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949;

c) is to prohibit categorically any threat to the lives of prisoners of war, the degradation of their human dignity, and their being shot without trial;

is to instigate criminal proceedings against and bring to book those persons guilty of shooting prisoners of war without trial in accordance with existing legislation;

d) to entrust the commanders of military formations to establish the identity of the wounded, sick, and dead of the opposing side who have been captured and are being held by them. In this respect, to establish their surname, Christian name, and patronymic, their military or personal number, where and when they were captured, killed, or found dead, details of their wounds, sickness, or death, and any other information given on their identification cards or identification tags;

This information is to be reported within 24 hours to the leadership of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense and submitted to the special service operating in the conflict zone and complete information on prisoners of war is to be passed to the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations;

e) is to create a special service in the conflict zone and entrust it:

- with handing over to the opposing side the bodies of fighters killed or dead and, if this is not possible, to organize their burial;
- with handing over to the opposing side in the appropriate manner certified lists of those killed and dead and their identification cards, identification tags, money, documents, and other items found.

3. The Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations, along with the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense, is to be entrusted to conduct negotiations on questions concerned with the exchange of prisoners of war and to ensure the fulfillment of agreements reached as a result of the negotiations.

4. A. Kavsadze, plenipotentiary representative of the head of state on the question of the regulation of the conflict in Abkhazia, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations is to be entrusted with control of the protection of the rights of prisoners of war captured during military operations.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze
[Dated] Tbilisi, 2 August 1993

Nadareishvili Expresses Doubts About Cease-Fire

AU1208125593 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 3 Aug 93 p 1

[Interview with Major General Tamaz Nadareishvili, member of Parliament and former chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers and Defense Council, by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA correspondent Lika Kldiashvili; place and date not given: "Tamaz Nadareishvili: 'This is Ardzinba's Capitulation'"]

[Text] The state of health of Major General Tamaz Nadareishvili, member of the Georgian Parliament from Abkhazia, has improved. SG correspondent Lika Kldiashvili visited him in the hospital and asked him to answer a few questions:

[Kldiashvili] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Tamaz, do you think that the Georgian side was forced to sign the agreement on a cease-fire in Abkhazia?

[Nadareishvili] You have phrased the question correctly. We were precisely forced to take this step. In spite of my radical position and repeated statements that peaceful negotiations would not bring positive results—incidentally, I still hold this view—nevertheless, I am convinced of the necessity of this document. However, not a single sensible person will admit that all the points in the agreement that has been signed are acceptable. For example, Points 6 and 8 give rise to strong doubts. It is stated in Point 6 that Georgian troops should be withdrawn from the territory of Abkhazia. However, this question can also be resolved painlessly. If the agreement comes into force, an army corps under the command of General Zaur Uchadze and two mechanized brigades—the 23d and 24th—should remain on Abkhazian territory. That is to say, those military subunits that were built up to strength from local inhabitants.

As regards Point 8, the situation is more complicated. What is under discussion here is the restoration of the lawful bodies of power, and, for some reason, many associate this with the return of Ardzinba and his parliament. I am radically opposed to this as the Supreme Council is not the lawful body of power, first, because, in May of last year, 32 deputies in the Georgian faction surrendered their powers and left Parliament and the decisions and decrees adopted by the remaining 33 deputies are illegal. Therefore, one cannot consider Ardzinba and his parliament as the lawful body of power. As regards the deputies themselves, all are military criminals, and, on my orders, criminal proceedings have been instigated against them. Criminal proceedings have also been instigated against Ardzinba and Shamba as the organizers of this war and the leaders of the fascist organization "Aydgilara" [Abkhazian People's Forum]. It is precisely on their orders that the peaceful districts of Sukhumi were bombed. Therefore, I do not imagine that they will dare to return to this town. The Sukhumians themselves will not allow it.

It should be pointed out that the Georgians living in Sukhumi are no longer the same people that they once were. In one year, they have learned how to fight, and their outlook has radically changed.

[Kldiashvili] What can we expect after the signing of the agreement?

[Nadareishvili] In spite of the fact that the agreement has been signed, it can be violated at any moment for I know very well who Ardzinba is and what forces support him. One can expect all manner of provocations from them and the violation of any agreements. That is why I attach particular importance to the town's defense capability.

Many politicians believe that this agreement is a capitulation on our part. I would say the opposite: This is Ardzinba's capitulation because he has signed a document that has changed practically nothing since the start of the war. He had promised that Abkhazia would be a separate state and that Georgians would not live on its territory. However, according to the document that has been signed, the integrity of Georgia has been preserved and the Georgian population will soon return to their birthplaces.

[Kldiashvili] Do you think that we will have a repetition of the Samachablo [South Ossetia] variant?

[Nadareishvili] I am sure we will not. If all the Georgian population had returned to Samachablo, such a situation would not have taken shape. I know that 90 percent of the expelled population will return to Abkhazia and also 20 to 30 percent of the fighters will remain, many of whom have managed to start families there.

Humanitarian Aid Truck Raided; Train Passengers Robbed

LD1208122693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our correspondent spoke this morning by telephone with Tamaz Tsetskhlashvili, the senior police officer on duty at the Senaki headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Here is the recording:

[Begin recording] [Tsetskhlashvili] At 1100 [0700 GMT] on 11 August, the former president's supporters, led by Akaki Eliava, chief of Senaki's No. 2 Battalion, and the personnel of this battalion blocked the Senaki-Khobi highway. They patrolled the highway, and stopped and checked all vehicles. During one of these checks, the head of Abasha rayon department of internal affairs and five employees of the Khobi department of internal affairs were arrested, and a vehicle sent from Khobi to Sukhumi with humanitarian aid was relieved of its cargo. Later in the day the captured personnel were released. On the same day, a patrol stopped a passenger train near Menji spa traveling the Ochamchire-Zestaponi route, and robbed the passengers. This is all the information I have at the moment, other than that the patrols have stopped.

[Correspondent] What happened last night in Senaki?

[Tsetskhlashvili] It was quiet last night, but at 1700 Police Colonel Rezo Chanturia, head of internal affairs of our rayon department, reported that the former president's supporters had just kidnapped Raul Kuchava, a policemen of Senaki department of internal affairs from his home. The policeman's gun was also taken. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Anything else?

[Tsetskhlashvili] Last night was peaceful, and so far there have been no more complications. [end recording]

Convoy Blocked; Defense Ministry Issues Disclaimer

LD1208214793 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Yesterday, 11 August, a convoy of the group of Russian armed forces in Transcaucasia consisting of 124 heavy trucks was blocked by Georgian armed units near Tbilisi with the aim of seizure. In accordance with arrangements with the top military command of the Republic, the convoy was carrying foodstuffs, fuel, and oil.

The command of the group of Russian armed forces in Transcaucasia had to send combat helicopters, armored vehicles, and reinforcements to the spot with an order to open direct fire in case there was an attempt to capture Russian property. The measures took effect, and the convoy continued along its fixed route two hours later.

The Georgian Defense Ministry did not claim responsibility for the incident, referring to "actions by armed units not under their command."

Opposition Bloc Demands Return of 'Legal' Authorities

AU1208104893 Tbilisi IBERIA-SPEKTRI in Georgian 4-10 Aug 93 p 14

[Unattributed article: "A New Political Bloc"]

[Text] On 9 July 1993, at a joint meeting of political parties, the new political bloc "Ilias Gza" ["Ilia's Path"] was created. This bloc unites the "Mamulis Aghordzinebis Sazogadoeba" ["Society for the Revival of the Motherland"] (T. Mdinaradze), the "Erovnul-Samarlebrivi Partia [National-Justice Party] (V. Gamrikishvili), the political organization "Simartle" ["Justice"] (M. Kiknadze), and "Khma Erisa" ["Voice of the Nation"] (G. Saluashvili).

The bloc adopted a general resolution that states:

a) The legislative and executive powers, which have brought Georgia to total catastrophe, should resign immediately.

b) The legal authorities [led by former President Gamsakhurdia], which stand on the path of independence and the revival of the national economy, should be restored by peaceful means.

The bloc has a press center and publishes the following papers: TKMA SIMARTLISA [Voice of Justice] and ARCHEVANI [Choice].

NIP Leader Warns Government Policy Leading to Civil War

AU1208173693 Tbilisi IBERIA-SPEKTRI in Georgian 4-10 Aug 93 p 14

[Rusudan Vashakidze article: "Are the Political Parties Drawing Closer to One Another?"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the representatives of political parties and organizations was held at the headquarters of the National Independence Party [NIP]. The "host," Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Irakli Tsereteli [leader of the NIP], gave the reason for the meeting as the tripartite agreement "on a cease-fire" signed in Sochi, which had evoked a negative reaction among a number of political parties in Georgia. He said that this agreement was a huge provocation and yet another step toward civil war in Georgia as the division of the nation suits the present antinational authorities. However, he pointed out that the struggle against these authorities should in no way be waged with armed force.

Batoni Irakli Tsereteli's statement that he was ready to hold talks with Batoni Zviad Gamsakhurdia, if the [ousted] president wished this, caused a sensation.

"Yes, we must unite and correct those mistakes that we made!" stated Batoni Giorgi Khoshtaria, the former minister of foreign affairs and member of the National Darbazi [the supreme consultative body in feudal Georgia]. [passage omitted]

The representatives of other parties delivered speeches at the meeting.

In conclusion, Batoni Irakli Tsereteli said: "The national movement is unimaginable without unity. We should all act to accelerate the removal of the Shevardnadze government and when the question—Shevardnadze or Gamsakhurdia?—is raised, it should be resolved by the whole nation by means of fresh elections."

First Batch of U.S. Humanitarian Aid Arrives at Batumi Port

LD1208181093 Tbilisi IBERIA INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1502 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Batumi, 12 Aug—According to a report by an IBERIA correspondent, a cargo of U.S. humanitarian aid has been shipped to Batumi port. The shipment includes various foodstuffs. It should be pointed out that the cargo includes vitamin-rich juice for women in childbirth.

This batch of humanitarian aid will be sent to Tbilisi and Kutaisi. Very soon another batch will be shipped, and this will be distributed in Ajara.

Power Department Outlines Immediate Needs

AU1208135793 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 3 Aug 93 p 4

[GIA report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The Power Workers Are Preparing for Winter"]

[Text] An extended meeting of the board of directors of the Georgian Department of Power Engineering was held in the assembly hall of this department. The results for the first half of the year and measures aimed at preparing for the forthcoming autumn and winter seasons were examined at the meeting.

It was pointed out that to completely fill the reservoirs with fuel oil—amounting to 300,000 tonnes—at the Tbilisi State Electric Power Station, it is necessary to pay Russian supplier enterprises no less than 15 billion rubles in cash. In total, the republic's power system needs more than one billion tonnes of fuel oil for the forthcoming period.

The attention of the participants of the meeting was directed to the facts of sabotage committed at energy installations in Georgia. During the recent devastation caused at the Inguri Hydroelectric Power Station, criminals put out of operation a 260 megawatt power unit.

The news given by Department Chairman Yuriy Chediya that Russia had taken upon itself all the expenses for restoring the damaged sections of the

"Kavkasioni" 500 kilowatt power transmission line, which will significantly ease the situation that has taken shape in the system, was greeted with approval.

The participants of the meeting adopted a joint decision on limiting the supply of electric power to the republic's rayons and, in particular, to industrial facilities.

Bulgarian Delegation Arrives

LD1208131193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] A delegation from Bulgaria, led by Nikita Shervashidze, first deputy chairman of the Energy and Heat Committee, has arrived in Georgia. The aim of the delegation's visit is to learn about Georgia's power complex and to share experiences. In the immediate future Georgian power engineers will visit Bulgaria's national company.

According to Iuri Chedia, chairman of the republic's power department, relations between the specialists of the two countries will become more systematic and purposeful.

Current Grain Harvest 'Not High'; Forecast Optimistic

AU1208135893 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Aug 93 p 1

[GIA report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The Grain Harvest Is in Progress"]

[Text] The grain harvest is in full swing in Kakheti. Heavy-eared grain crops have been harvested from an area covering more than 20,000 hectares, which amounts to 15 percent of all sown areas. The average yield is not high—17 centners per hectare. It is expected that a harvest of 30,000 [centners] will be procured. At the same time, there are rayons in the republic where there is every possibility that a bigger harvest than forecast will be gathered. For example, in Dedoplistskaro, Tetritskaro, Kvareli, and Gurdzhaani rayons. These have reserves that, given their correct utilization, could bring positive results.

Ministry Reports 'Slight' Increase in Tea Harvest

AU1208181893 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Aug 93 p 1

[GIA report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The New Tea Harvest"]

[Text] According to information from the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Industry, 80,900 tonnes of tea leaves had been picked in the republic by 3 August. There has also been a slight increase in the daily plucking compared with before: For example, on 2 August, it had reached 2,000 tonnes. According to the forecast, tea growers had planned to lay in this season no less than 300,000 tonnes of roughage for processing. Up to now, 27 percent of this figure has been reached.

Khobi Without Flour; Authorities Warn of Discontent

LD1208165493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Flour supplies have been completely used up in Khobi and bread has not been baked for three days. In the opinion of the rayon authorities, there is a danger that the discontent of the population could be used by destructive forces to satisfy their political ambitions.

Diesel fuel has been delivered recently to the rayon, and tea leaf picking has been resumed.

Estonia

Roundtable Meeting Discusses Problems of Ethnic Minorities

WS1308112493 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0728 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From 13 August RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] Friday, August 13—Third round table meeting on the problems of non-citizens and ethnic minorities took place in the Tallinn Press Centre yesterday. The closed meeting discussed mostly the statutes of the round table and a draft law on cultural autonomy of the ethnic minorities.

The draft of the statutes was submitted by the presidential chancellery and Professor of International Law at the Salzburg University, Honorary Chief Consul of Estonia to Austria Henn-Juri Uibopuu. According to the draft, the round table for research and advice on the problems of ethnic minorities and non-citizens in the Republic of Estonia has been formed in order to discuss the ethnic problems in Estonia until the political and legal status of the non- citizens has been solved to all parties' satisfaction. The statutes must be approved by the President, Uibopuu commented. The round table is no legal entity but a meeting of individuals, he stressed. Ants-Enno Lhmus, current chairman of the meeting, also described the round table as a consultative body.

The meeting also discussed the draft law on cultural autonomy, submitted by Lhmus. Several amendments were suggested.

The meeting rejected the recommendation of the Russian-speakers' Assembly to include the Narva trade unions in the round table meetings as a permanent member.

Ants-Enno Lhmus criticized a recent statement by MP Olav Anton, who had claimed that the law extending the deadline for the registration of voting non-citizens did not come into force. The law came into force yesterday.

The participants met the new representative of the CSCE mission in Estonia Timo Lahema who is to start working from Monday.

The next meeting is to take place on August 26.

Former Minister Cites 3 Attempts at Military Coup

MK1208123093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Ilya Nikiforov report: "Fourth Military Coup Attempt in Estonia? A Prolonged Jaegers' Mutiny"]

[Excerpts] The mutiny in Estonia's defense forces, which NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already reported, has reached the stage of a prolonged impasse. The volunteer jaegers' company, under its commander Asso Kommer, still refuses to take orders from the High Command of the republic's Defense Forces and is staying at its base in Pullapae. The mutineers have achieved some success, however: Defense Minister Hain Rebas resigned voluntarily and went home to Sweden. [passage omitted, examining economic and "patriotic" theories as motivations for these events]

The other day, reports appeared in the Estonian press mulling over a third theory: that of a conspiracy. State Assembly Deputy Jaan Kaplinski was the first to make public these allegations, which were later echoed by former Defense Minister Julo Uluots. The latter claims that there have been three attempts to stage a military coup and all of them were, one way or another, linked with Kaitseliit (a voluntary armed organization with a membership of 6,000 people); former U.S. Army Colonel Juri Toomepuu, leader of the "Estonian Citizen" association and former defense minister; and also Uno Ruus, former candidate to the Estonian Presidency and former Wehrmacht paratroop's officer.

According to Julo Uluots, the coup attempts took place in February, June, and last October. In October, for instance, the rebels tried to seize Kaitseliit's staff and to change the current lineup of its governing body. At that time, however, apart from the rebels and some voluntary military units manipulated by them, there were no authoritative politicians in Estonia ready to support the coup; therefore, the attempt failed.

Julo Uluots hopes that the joint commission set up by the government and the parliament that currently deals with the subject will publish documents related to the events.

If Julo Uluots is even slightly correct, Hain Rebas' resignation has pointed implications. Juri Tuumepuu was the minister's most intransigent opponent, who desired his removal and threatened scandal and revelations from the very first days of Hain Rebas' tenure. Seen against this backdrop, the spring dismissal of the general director of the border protection department, who protested the merger of the border protection troops with the Estonian Army—something the extreme radicals never actually opposed—looks just as intriguing. A situation is coming about in Estonia where politicians who control the armed forces (the Army plus Kaitseliit) are in control of the country.

Government Coalition Preparing New Agreement

WS1308112693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0728 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From 13 August RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Friday, August 13—The government coalition council prepared the new coalition agreement at its Wednesday's [11 August] meeting, deputy chairman of the "Fatherland" faction Indrek Kannik announced. The agreement is expected to be signed in September.

The Wednesday's meeting discussed culture, education, competition, measures against monopolies and agriculture. The coalition partners agreed on the need to protect the home market against cheap agricultural products from the East. The World Bank concessions are to be used for that purpose, so as to restrict the import of low-priced products from Russia and to subsidize imported raw materials from the West. The splitting of state-owned monopolies into several enterprises was also discussed.

The coalition politicians assured that no re-distribution of ministers' portfolios has been intended. Prime Minister Mart Laar said in a TV interview that the opposition should check its sources of information before making any statements. Kannik stressed that the "Fatherland" party is happy with its current share of power and has to be "subtle and flexible" in relations with its partners.

The ministers Madis Urike, Lagle Parek, Marju Lauristin and Jaan Leetsar expressed their surprise at the statement of the 12 opposition politicians about their intended replacement by the coalition. They stressed that the statement is totally unfounded and their respective departments are working efficiently.

Ministers 'Surprised' by Alleged Plans To Dismiss Them

WS1208133293 Tallinn BNS in English 0943 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 12, BNS—Four of Estonia's ministers say they were caught by surprise by an opposition council's claim that the ruling coalition plans to dismiss them and other ministers.

Finance Minister Madis Uurike, Interior Minister Lagle Parek, Social Affairs Minister Marju Lauristin and Agriculture Minister Jaan Leetsar were all pegged by a 12-member opposition council for an early departure from the government.

"The statement has no foundation and is aimed at splitting the coalition," Leetsar told BNS. He confessed to disagreeing with the prime minister in questions on protecting the domestic market, but said "things are developing in a favorable direction."

The agriculture minister favors protecting the domestic market with import restrictions and subsidies, while Prime Minister Mart Laar prefers a free market.

Leetsar said that the coalition has never discussed his resignation, nor have any plans for his dismissal come to his ears.

Interior Minister Lagle Parek told BNS that this is the first time she heard about resigning. "It is a total surprise to me," she said. "I don't intend to leave, rather the opposite.

"The statement both amazed and amused me," Lauristin told BNS. "It is a complete invention that has not even a remote connection with reality, and it is really amusing that something like that is presented as serious politics.

"If the statement of the 12 had been made on April 1, I could understand it," Lauristin said. "Probably the opposition politicians muddled up their calendar."

The finance minister was also surprised at the opposition statement. "I don't consider the finance ministry uncapable of doing its work," Uurike said. "If one looks at the finance situation, it is plainly on the rise."

The opposition council claimed Wednesday that a new coalition agreement outlines the redistribution of ministerial posts and should lead to increasing Pro Patria's role in the government.

Government Lifts Restrictions on Entering Paldiski

WS1308112193 Tallinn BNS in English 1626 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 12, BNS—The Estonian police stopped checking cars entering and leaving Paldiski Aug. 10. After Tuesday [10 August] those wishing to go to Paldiski can do so without a special license.

The police and the defense force patrols only run random checks of the people in the town and those arriving by train.

The government decided Aug. 10 to change the rules of entrance to Paldiski and amended its decree of April 27.

According to the decree, local and state officials may enter Paldiski by presenting their work certificates. Other local and state employees can get into the town by presenting their work certificates and documents showing they are on an official business mission.

According to the decree, the police will monitor the entrance into Paldiski and the people staying there. The decree remains in force until Dec. 31.

The Estonians living in Paldiski told BNS that since the removal of police patrols the number of trucks leaving Paldiski loaded with metal from the Russian naval forces has sharply increased.

The Estonian police began to check the entrance into Paldiski during Operation Spider, which took place March 12-14. Estonia took its first decisive step toward Paldiski's takeover then by sending the military, Defense League members, border guards and policemen into the town controlled by the Russian naval forces. Before that, the Russian troops controlled the entrance into Paldiski.

NATO Experts Study Demining Operations

WS1308111993 Tallinn BNS in English 1626 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 12, BNS—A group of NATO experts arrived in Estonia earlier this week to study, among other things, the demining operations in the country.

The six-member group of army, air force and naval officers is led by Major John N. Foster, who has been in Estonia for two weeks.

The NATO experts and Estonian officials head to Pakri island and Paldiski Thursday [12 August].

A large number of unexploded devices still exist in Pakri and in Paldiski. Spokesmen with the Estonian rescue service say one of the biggest problems they face is cleaning the sea bottom of mines dating from World War II. Fishermen still catch unexploded shells in their nets when they fish near Pakri. The shells fell into the sea during battles in 1941 and 1944.

The Naissaar island and the Sorve Peninsula are also still considered dangerous areas.

The NATO specialists will report to the U.S. government on the results of their visit. It may lead to western experts undertaking the organization of demining operations in Estonia.

The NATO officers showed U.S. demining equipment to workers of the rescue service Monday.

BNS has data that the Soviet minesweepers currently in use at the rescue service allow workers to detect an object at depth of 40 cm to 50 cm. The U.S.-made equipment allows detection at a depth of two to five meters.

Lithuania

Work on Russian Troop Withdrawal Deal To Continue in Vilnius

MK1208121093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Tamara Nikolayeva report: "Talks Between Lithuania and Russia Now Reminiscent of a Political Novel. Vytautas Landsbergis Comments on Results of Lithuania and Russia State Delegation Meeting"]

[Excerpts] What did the opposition leader have in mind? The suspense, the drama of the situation—or did he mean to suggest that the resolution in a novel does not come very quickly? Indeed, the present round of talks began in what was an impasse, and both sides were aware of it. Therefore the results of the talks are totally devoid of drama—the results were predetermined by the sides' position on Article 12 of the draft agreement on pulling Russian troops out of the territory of Lithuania. [passage omitted]

The Russian delegation statement notes that the Lithuanian side took out of the draft all the provisions on the Lithuanian Republic's commitments in regard to the Russian Federation armed forces stationed on Lithuanian territory, as well as the formula on the participation by Russian authorized persons in inspections on the territories and facilities vacated by the Russian military. The Russian delegation has no choice but to express regret that the Lithuanian side did not find time to discuss the draft agreement on social protection for servicemen of the Russian Federation armed forces—a document that Russia was planning to sign along with the troop withdrawal agreement.

Lithuania's motives are plain: all the above is outside the sphere of its interests. Lithuania has achieved its main objective: the foreign troops have virtually left its territory, and not holding the status of Russian Federation armed forces, as would have been stated in the agreement had it been signed, but as an army of occupation that helped to forcibly annex and incorporate Lithuania into the USSR in 1940. Russia has admitted that there was an annexation of the Baltic states, and condemned it. How will the plot of this political novel develop further? "The possibilities for rapprochement with Russia have not yet been exhausted," said Justas Paleckis, foreign policy adviser to the president of Lithuania. Much depends now on the skills and desire of both sides to avoid the sore points that obstruct closer relations and a formulation of shared positions. Much also depends on the internal political situation (the role of the highly influential Lithuanian opposition in relations with Russia cannot be called positive.)

As for the meeting between the Lithuanian and Russian presidents that was agreed upon for this week, the Lithuanian side's opinion is this: The Lithuanian president's trip to Moscow will take place if the Lithuanian delegation manages to attain concrete results in the talks with Russia. This was stated by the head of the Lithuanian delegation, Virgilius Bulovas. In the meantime, members of the Russian delegation have been invited to continue work on the agreement in Vilnius.

Spokesman Condemns Landsbergis Remark on Withdrawal

WS1208133193 Tallinn BNS in English 1812 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 11, BNS—The Lithuanian opposition's response to Russia's threatened suspension of the troop withdrawal lacks any argument, fact or proof, said a presidential spokesman today.

Opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis came to a hasty and unfounded conclusion that the possible suspension of the Russian Army withdrawal is Moscow's "effort to back up its lobbyists in Vilnius," said press officer Nerijus Maliukevicius.

In his statement the presidential press officer said he also regrets the way Landsbergis suspects the Lithuanian president will "achieve" the completion of the army withdrawal.

The same applies to the assertion of the opposition leader that "the recall of the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States looks dangerous and appears specially synchronized with Russia's actions," said the statement by the presidential press officer.

Maliukevicius stresses that Landsbergis' presumptions "are unfounded and cannot step up the solution of problems in Lithuanian-Russian relations or stability in our state."

Butkevicius, Knezys Comment on Withdrawal

LD1208142293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Correspondent Algirdas Usas report]

[Excerpts] Two press conferences were held today in the Seimas building. The first was attended by Kestutis Jaskelevicius, chairman of the Seimas Budget and Finance Committee, and the state controller, Vidas Kundrotas. They spoke about bank activity and fiscal policy. They also reported on the decisions adopted yesterday by the Seimas Budget and Finance Committee, when it was decided that with regard to the transfer of credit funds to the Litimpex bank, this state of affairs should be examined by the Seimas commission for investigating economic crimes. [passage omitted].

The second news conference was held by National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius, and armed forces Chief of Staff Stasys Knezys.

The first to speak was Audrius Butkevicius. Here is his recorded speech:

[Begin recording] [Butkevicius] [Passage omitted] The Russian Army is leaving; intensive loading operations are taking place. [passage omitted] The withdrawal of the Russian Army is not only the affair of Lithuania and Russia. This is an international problem, and the whole of Europe is interested. Lithuania is the first republic from which Russia is withdrawing its army in accordance with an agreement, implementing the resolutions of the CSCE and of the NATO Council. We are attempting to balance our political work on the withdrawal in the East and West. This was the purpose of my visit a day ago to the United Kingdom.

[Usas] Perhaps Colonel Knezys could add something about this withdrawal?

[Knezys] [Passage omitted] I can only describe in detail some circumstances of the army withdrawal. I can only say that the withdrawal of the Russian Army is not suspended; it is taking place, and we expect it to be completed by 28 August. We hope to see—as we stated earlier—the last Russian military unit to leave on 31 August, when the last train carrying a Russian unit must leave the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The withdrawal will be completed by the 108th Airborne Regiment, which belongs to the 7th Airborne Division.

In fact, there are no longer any divisions in Lithuania. The 18th Air Transport Division has completed handing over the Kedainiai airfield, and it is no longer there. Acts will be signed in the nearest future. They have already been prepared. [passage omitted]

About the factories. As you know, there were four factories. The takeover of two is virtually complete. The takeover of the tank repair plant in Kaunas is nearing completion, and on Monday our government commission will start taking over the territory of the Air Force repair plant and its immovable equipment. This plant carries out repairs to helicopters.

There were four fuel bases. One of them has been taken over, and the takeover of a second is nearing completion. The takeover of a third, in Pagegiai, is also under way. [passage omitted]

[Usas] Our most important dailies, LIETUVOS RYTAS and RESPUBLIKA, published interviews today by head of the Russian delegation, Isakov. In both interviews he says that if by the end of August an agreement is not signed, the army will not be withdrawn. How do you regard this?

[Butkevicius] [Passage indistinct] As far as I know, the ambassador does not lead the Russian Army and does not make any decisions. All this misunderstanding between the negotiating delegations and all the noise raised in Lithuania and, of course, in Russia, does not help normal cooperation and does not help the organization of the withdrawal of the Russian Army. It is a very serious obstacle. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Defense Minister Confident of Schedule

LD1208195193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Defense Minister Audrius Butkevius said at a press conference today that the last Russian troop unit would be pulled out from Lithuania on 28 August. Lithuania, the minister stressed, will be the first former Soviet country from which the Russian armed forces would be withdrawn.

A special scenario has been prepared for the farewell to the Russian troops; the Government has allotted funds for the farewell festivities.

Currently there are around 3,000 Russian servicemen in Lithuania. They are loading military equipment and ammunition on to train carriages. According to the figures given by Russia at the end of 1991, there were around 30,000 USSR servicemen in Lithuania. They were deployed in five divisions. The first division was withdrawn two years ago from a northern townlet in Vilnius.

According to Audrius Butkevicius, the last unit of Russian troops which took over the legal rights of the former Soviet Union [as heard] should leave Lithuania on the last Saturday in August.

The national defense minister stressed that after having withdrawn its troops from Lithuania, Russia will have carried out one of its most important international obligations.

Deputy Minister on Proposed Trade Agreement With Russia

WS1208132793 Tallinn BNS in English 1557 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 11, BNS—Vytas Navickas, the Lithuanian deputy economics minister, predicts a proposed trade agreement with Russia may have only one privilege, a two-fold reduction in export duties to Russia.

The Lithuanian team for talks with Russia has not yet realized what rights Lithuania can expect from a most favored nation trade treaty, Navickas told Lithuanian television. Among those privileges could be a reduction in duties for Russian goods exported to Lithuania and the cancellation of quotas and licenses for a number of Russian goods, he warned.

Lithuania has four economic agreements on the table for discussion with Russia. In his recent letter to President Algirdas Brazauskas, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that no obstacles stand in the way of a treaty on the status of most favored nation trade conditions and that the parties should continue working on a free trade agreement.

Navickas insists that the Lithuanian-Russian free trade treaty needs to include stipulations for the number of goods traded by a different regime. It is possible that "Russia will propose its own order of import-export regulations, corresponding to decisions by the Russian government," said Navickas. "That would provide little use for Lithuania."

Lithuanian exports to Russia make about a third of all Lithuanian exports.

President Brazauskas Meets, Briefs Foreign Envoys

LD1208194393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas met today with the foreign ambassadors accredited in Lithuania. He informed them about the economic and social situation in the country. Particular attention was paid to some aspects in the negotitaions with Russia. The wish of Lithuania to continue the negotiations and to aspire toward positive results was expressed, while adhering to the demand voiced by the people of Lithuania in a referendum, to pay compensation to Lithuania for the damage inflicted since the start of the annexation. Lithuania is prepared to continue the negotiations and to sign other agreements beneficial to both sides.

Speaking on behalf of the diplomats from the European Community Stefan Gallon, temporary charge d'affaires of Germany in Lithuania, expressed his conviction that a positive result will be achieved in the negotiations, and that the same result will be achieved in Estonia and Latvia. He spoke about the promising policy of quiet diplomacy which recognizes compromises.

The president expressed the opinion that the misunderstandings in the negotiations are temporary, and stressed that there are no reports saying that the Russian troops will not be withdrawn on time. He invited the ambassadors to take part in the farewell ceremony to the Russian troops on 28 August.

Economic Situation, Agricultural Production Viewed

LD1208172093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1330 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] A news conference was held today at the government palace where journalists learned a great deal about Lithuania's economic situation, agriculture, the purchasing and selling prices for various products, and this year's harvest. Here is a report by Zenonas Miksys from the news conference.

[Miksys] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius drew attention to facts and figures illustrating the Lithuanian economy and our potential.

[Begin recording] [Slezevicius] [passage omitted] At a government meeting yesterday we decided to increase the wages of officials at state-financed institutions by 10 percent as of 1 September. This also applies to pensions. [passage omitted]

We also decided that although inflation has been declining in the last four months—you know these figures: 25, 17, 6.2, and 2.9 percent—we decided, in view of the fact that a decision had been made to increase wages at state-financed institutions, that the wages of all workers whose holidays are longer than one month, that their wages for the period beyond one month will be indexed at the same percentage, that is 12 percent, as it was indexed in July.

There is a question regarding the protection of our manufacturers of agricultural products. We are compelled to introduce stricter demands. At the government meeting we increased customs duty on imported meat by up to 30 percent. There is a danger of cheaper meat flooding our market. There are also insignificant limitations for greenhouse products—tomatoes and cucumbers—to defend our greenhouse growers. They are minimal. [passage omitted]

[Minister of Agriculture Rimantas Karazia] [passage omitted] The greatest problem is that we have large quantities of unsold products. Meat factories have at present over 14,000 tonnes of meat. There are 6,000 tonnes of butter. There are also about 2,500 tonnes of fermented cheese. [passage omitted] The harvest will most probably consist of 2 million tonnes of grain. [passage omitted] Yields are not bad, in some rayons reaching up to 35 quintals of grain per hectare. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Vagnorius Holds Press Conference on Money Devaluation

WS1308111793 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1218 GMT 12 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 307]

[Text] Vilnius, August 11 (ELTA)—The devaluation has stricken not only salaries, capital but also people's savings and stocks, said member of Seimas and Chairman of the Conservative party Gediminas Vagnorius during the press-conference held on the 11th of August. After the fall of the value of money, the saved but unindexed people's savings have decreased 100 times, while the Government has decided to index savings only 10 times by it's resolution of the 26th of February, 1991. The Chairman of the Conservatives has noted that the savings as of that date must be indexed. One rouble (talonas) must be counted as equal to one litas. The savings must be restituted not at the Budget's expense but from the resources earned from the state property to be privatized, after it's transfer to the Lithuanian Savings Bank. This would be fair for about one third of people's savings has contributed to the construction of Lithuanian companies and other state property. This state property must serve as a source for indexation of savings, emphasized Gediminas Vagnorius. He also informed that the Fatherland Union (Conservatives) have prepared a project of compensation for people's savings as well as measures for regaining value of stocks. The Union is planning the action provided by the Constitution of Lithuania allowing for legislation initiative - to submit this project to Seimas for consideration. After adoption of such law, stressed Gediminas Vagnoriius, not only the savings of people would be saved once more but also stocks which have lost ninety percent of their book value.